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Low inflation and 3% output rise forecast

Personal allowances may rise

The single person's tax allowance should go up by at least £130 in the next Budget to £2,335 and the married allowance by at least £200 to £3,655, according to a Treasury ready reckoner. City economists calculate that the Chancellor has room for significant tax cuts in the Budget.

Inflation set to fall again

Inflation is set to fall to about 3% per cent by the fourth quarter of next year compared with 5% per cent at the end of this year.

Farm spending

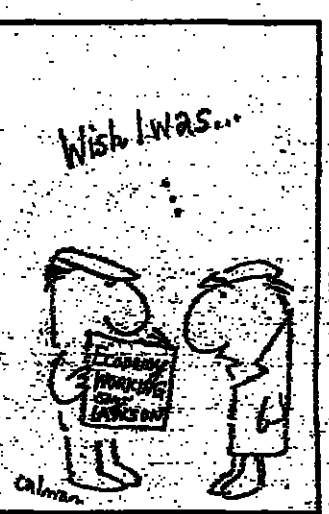
Massive increases loom in intervention spending - increasing the better, beef and other "mountains" to support farm prices - under the European Community's Common Agriculture Policy.

Pensions

Pensions and other social security benefits will rise by only 1 per cent next July because the Government is changing the date of its annual uprating of benefits. Total social security spending will rise to £43,600 million.

Housing aid

Local authorities will get an extra £220 million to improve rundown housing - compared with £600 million which Mr Kenneth Baker, the Environment Secretary, wanted.



Lower paid

Changes in the National Insurance system will mean increased contributions for higher earners and their employers, while the lower paid will be better off.

Police boost

Law and order will cost taxpayers another £300 million to boost the police force and probation staff, fight drugs and expand the prison system.

Famine help

Another £57 million is being earmarked for overseas aid after public concern about famine and drought in Africa.

Education cut

Local authorities will get £185 million less this year to spend on education, but universities will receive more than £20 million for research and equipment.

Nurses' pay

An extra £130 million - an increase of 6.7 per cent - will be spent on hospital and community health services. Much of this will be for increased pay for nurses and doctors and the care of the growing numbers of elderly people.

Growing GNP

The economy is expected to grow by 3.4 per cent this year and by 3 per cent in 1986. Employment is expected to increase.

Chancellor fuels growth by state sales and spending

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Extra public spending totaling £5 billion over the next two years, to be paid for by doubling the rate at which state assets are sold to the public, was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, in his autumn statement on the economy. The combination of continued growth and still lower inflation, the Chancellor said, would allow the Government to continue to spend in this way for a generation. He also promised "considerable and justified" tax cuts, but refused to say whether his forecasts still allowed for £3½ billion off tax in the next Budget.

Mr Lawson insisted that "firm control over the public spending" continues, although the Opposition was quick to suggest that the Chancellor had been forced off track by political pressure to increase spending on housing, roadbuilding and the health service.

The totals for public spending in 1986-87 and 1987-88 remain unchanged from previous plans at £139 billion and £144 billion. But the Chancellor has increased his target for receipts from shares in state enterprises such as British Telecom and British Gas from £2.25 billion to £4.75 billion in each of these years.

That money is available for spending by departments, and the Chancellor announced increases of £550 million over two years for health services, £420 million for housing and £125 million for roads. The budget for social security has been increased by about £1 billion for next year. The "reserve" in spending plans has also been reduced, providing departments with an extra £1½ billion to spend next year and £750 million the year after.

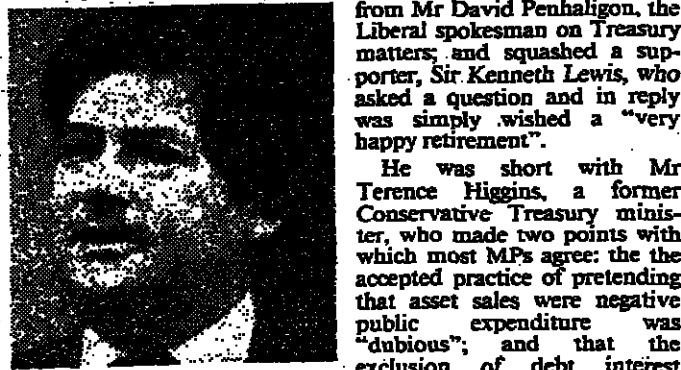
The Chancellor, however, insisted that even if asset sales were excluded from the calculation, public spending could be shown to be under control. It was "broadly flat" in real terms, and falling from 45 per cent of national income this year to only 42 per cent by 1988-89.

That, the Chancellor said, would be its lowest level since 1972-73. Mr Lawson also forecast "the best performance" for the economy since 1973, with growth continuing for the fifth successive year at an average of 3 per cent. His new forecast also suggested that inflation would fall to 3.75 per cent by the fourth quarter of next year - the first time since the 1960s when Britain's growth rate had been so nearly as high as its inflation rate.

However, Mr Lawson was obliged to concede that public borrowing was running about £1 billion higher than the £7 billion he forecast for the present year at the time of the last Budget largely because of falling oil revenues. He also admitted that inflation was likely to be 5.5 per cent at the end of this year, rather than the 5 per cent forecast in the Budget.

But at the margins of the parliamentary party, he was criticized privately, both by those on the right with misgivings about the reflation indicated by the forecast of a 4 per cent rise in consumer spending this year, against 2½ per cent last year, and those on the left who found him still curiously coy about taking credit for a marked change of policy.

In the private meeting Mr Lawson made more of the Government's spending record, urging his colleagues to emphasize that the Government had increased spending on roads by 30 per cent, while Labour had cut it by the same percentage.



Mr Lawson leaving Downing Street yesterday

For next year, Mr Lawson did not provide the customary estimate of the scope for tax cuts. On the basis of his new forecast, however, Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker, used the Treasury's own economic model to suggest he has room to cut taxes by £2.5 billion next March, rather than the £3.5 billion suggested in his previous medium-term strategy. That would be enough to cut the basic rate of tax by 2p in the pound, with scope for a 3p reduction the following year bringing the basic rate down to 25p by the next election.

Those cuts would be on top of the regular increases in thresholds to compensate for inflation, which the autumn statement suggests would amount to £130 for a single person and £200 for a married couple, bringing their basic tax thresholds to £2,335 and £3,655 a year respectively.

The Chancellor also announced changes in national insurance contributions to come into effect next April. The threshold for national insurance is to be increased from £35.50 to £38 a week, an increase broadly in line with earnings but somewhat higher than the rate of inflation. The upper limit is to be raised from £65 to £85 for employees' contributions. The thresholds for each successive band of contribution rates are similarly being increased.

There is no change in the rates themselves. The new rates are based on the "assumption" that social security benefits will be increased only 1 per cent next July, in line with the increase in price between last May and next January. It also assumes that unemployment falls slightly, from an average of 3,050,000 registered adults in

Continued on back page, col 3

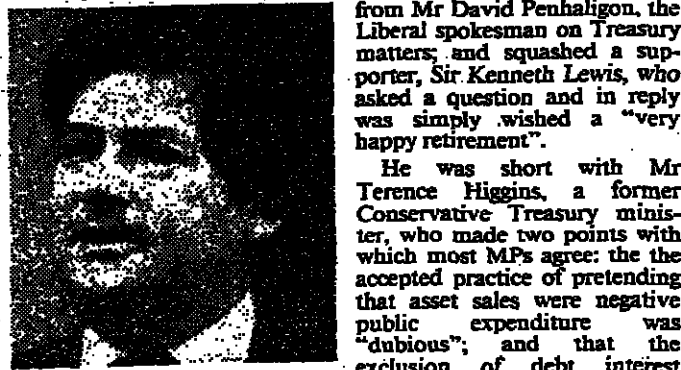
Lawson's public foes and private friends

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Chancellor's prescription of more spending on health, housing and roads, with higher sales of State assets to help to pay for it, went down well with most Conservative MPs, and they applauded him warmly at a private meeting after his Commons statement.

But at the margins of the parliamentary party, he was criticized privately, both by those on the right with misgivings about the reflation indicated by the forecast of a 4 per cent rise in consumer spending this year, against 2½ per cent last year, and those on the left who found him still curiously coy about taking credit for a marked change of policy.

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Mr Lawson leaving Downing Street yesterday

Business incentives for jobless

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

More help for the long term unemployed linked to an extension of the special scheme to encourage people to set up their own businesses, was the central theme of the Government's new employment initiative.

Two pilot schemes to improve job prospects for the 1.3 million people who have been out of work for more than a year, are to be launched in January in seven areas of high unemployment. After a six month trial period a decision will be taken on whether the scheme should be extended to other parts of the country.

Lord Young of Gifford, Secretary of State for Employment, said: "In the improving climate for jobs we are determined to improve our contact with those long term unemployed people who may have been losing hope. We are already writing to all long term unemployed people inviting them to contact their Jobcentre for advice and support. The measures announced today reinforce our determination to help long-term unemployed people back into jobs."

A "Job Start" payment of £20 a week will be paid to people whose normal weekly wage is less than £80 and will be available for the first six months of work. The scheme is designed to make full-time work more attractive to the low paid who may have benefited

Continued on back page, col 1



The Queen welcoming the Emir of Qatar (right) at Victoria station yesterday

Smile warms Emir in frosty London

By Nicholas Ashford

The Sun may not have been as it is in Arabia, but at least it was shining brilliantly when the Queen greeted Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, at Victoria station yesterday at the start of a four-day state visit.

The Emir, whose country is among the hottest in the world, braved frosty temperatures to inspect a guard of honour of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards.

He rode with the Queen in the Irish state coach to Buckingham Palace, where he is staying. The Queen gave a

state banquet at the palace in his honour last night.

Today he will lunch with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street and will attend a banquet at Guildhall this evening.

Leading article, page 19
Court Circular, page 20

Pentagon lists arms violations by Russia

From Michael Binoy, Washington

As President Reagan yesterday told European television correspondents of his hopes for the Geneva summit, the Pentagon was drafting a long-awaited report on Soviet violations of arms limitation agreements.

The 70-page report, drawn up by Mr Richard Perle, the assistant Secretary for Defence, does not detail any substantial alleged violations that have not already been made public by the Administration.

The two main accusations are that the Russians have broken the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty by constructing an early-warning radar at Krasnoyarsk, and has violated the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty by deploying the new, mobile SS25 missiles.

President Reagan called for the study after deciding to dismantle a nuclear submarine to keep within the Salt 2 limits, and the timing of its presentation, a week before the summit, is significant. However, the President's original call for suggested US responses has been delayed, and will be contained in a second report that will not be presented until after the summit.

The Administration wants

first to see what progress can be made at Geneva.

The draft document is expected to accuse the Russians of deploying a combination of mobile SA-12 surface-to-air missiles and a mobile radar system to produce what could be regarded as a mobile anti-ballistic missile system, which in itself would be a further violation. The deployment of the missiles is not new, nor outlawed under existing treaties. But US sources say they are being sited to protect new SS25 intercontinental ballistic missiles, and this would violate the ABM treaty.

Mr Paul Nitze, the President's special adviser on arms control, yesterday said the study was not yet complete. He refused to give details but said in a television interview, that under the US proposals air-launched cruise missiles would be limited to 1,500. The US, however, would not accept a ban on submarine-based cruise missiles because it was impossible to tell whether they were carrying conventional or nuclear warheads.

Kremlin attack, page 6

Doe battles against coup bid

Abidjan - Liberia's head of state, General Samuel Doe, was battling yesterday to repulse a coup attempt by an exiled general (Richard Everette). Reports indicated that General Doe's forces had seized a radio station which was broadcasting announcements by the coup leader, General Thomas Quowonka.

Neither side appeared to have gained complete control. General Doe said forces loyal to General Quowonka, a former supporter who fled the country amid coup rumours in 1983, had entered the country from Ivory Coast.

Gunfire was heard all day in Monrovia yesterday, and trucks were seen carrying bodies.

Poll-rigging tension, page 6

Flotation of TSB will go ahead

Preparations for the sale of the Trustee Savings Bank are to go ahead despite a ruling in the Edinburgh Court of Session yesterday that the assets of the bank belong to its depositors, writes Richard Thomson.

Plans for the sale, which is being handled by the Government, are based on the assumption that the bank is owned by no one. The Government is to appeal against the ruling, which was given in response to an action brought by Mr James Ross, a depositor with TSB Scotland.

Although the judgment from Lord Davidson relates to TSB Scotland, it could apply to the whole TSB Group if a similar action was brought before a court in England or Wales.

Flotation to go ahead page 21

\$21m claim by 'lover' of Hudson

A 31-year-old Los Angeles man claiming to be a former lover of Rock Hudson, has filed a \$21 million (£14 million) claim against the actor's estate, saying his life was put in jeopardy because he was never told Hudson had Aids.

Maxwell plant

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, said he would set up a colour printing plant in Manchester after talks on the takeover of Thomson Withy Grove broke down.

Football split

Second division football clubs agreed in principle to reduce the League by almost a half Page 26

Portfolio

There were three winners of yesterday's Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000. Mrs Doreen Gordon of Ipswich, Mrs Angela Treayne of Oakley, Bedford, and Mrs Mary Ward of Battersea, London, each receive £666.66. Portfolio list, page 24. How to play: Information Service, back page.

12 pages of jobs

There are 12 pages of appointments from all sections of business in The Times tomorrow.

SPECIAL REPORT

The Queen opens the new quadrangle at University College London today: another milestone in the history of London's oldest college 13-15

Secret service vetoes Prince

The Prince of Wales wanted to see Washington's inner city deprivation, but nervous secret servicemen vetoed the plan.

The Prince's desire to meet the man on the street was disclosed yesterday by the mayor of Washington, Mr Marion Barry.

The two men talked about inner city problems, one of the Prince's major concerns, at a National Gallery of Art dinner. Mr Barry said he asked the Prince: "Have you seen downtown Washington?" The Prince replied: "No, they won't let me come downtown. The Secret Service said it was not a problem. We have a good police department. I told him: 'You should have ordered it. You're the Prince'."

The Prince replied: "They would not let me do it. I wanted to do it."

Mr Barry said they talked about unemployment, drugs,

housing and inner city blacks, a group which the Prince said had problems in Britain.

He told the mayor: "I am awfully concerned about it - it's quite a problem. I want to learn more about what I can do to help."


Visit Restraints: The Prince seemed to be chafing at the restraints placed on him. (Trever Fishlock writes from Palm Beach, Florida). While recognizing the necessity of the ceremony, trivia and hubbalooboo of his American visit, he plainly wished there could have been an element of reality and social relevance in his schedule. Instead, as his programme demanded, he went off yesterday to play polo and dine with the super-rich in Florida.

The Royal couple have dazzled Americans and are the object of press and television coverage astonishing in its scale. Americans are given to crazes


and the Prince and Princess have become the latest.

They flew from Washington to spend the last full day of their three-week Australian and American trip in Palm Beach, a colony of 10,000 wealthy people. It is as neat and sterile as a film set, where the traffic is quiet because most of it seems to be made of Rolls-Royces.

Here, as in Washington, the royal couple held up a mirror to vanity, pomposity and foolishness. Palm Beach is to some extent a city of drones given to high society narcissism. Long before the Prince and Princess arrived claws were unsheathed, fur rubbed the wrong way and egos pricked in an unseemly quarrel over last night's charity ball at the Breakers Hotel, an opulent seaside palace overlooking long stretches of private beaches.



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Girl in council care died after father stuffed wool in her mouth, jury told

From Craig Seton, Birmingham

A girl aged 22 months was suffocated after her father stuffed a ball of wool into her mouth and used a scarf as a gag, Birmingham Crown Court heard yesterday.

Gemma Hartwell had been in council care since birth and within 16 days of being returned to her home "on trial" she was dead.

A jury of six men and six women was told by Mr Martin Bowley, QC, for the prosecution, that Gemma's battered body was taken from her parents' Birmingham home in a box covered by a black plastic bag and buried in the Clent Hills, Worcestershire.

Philip Hartwell, aged 30, unemployed, of Waters Road, Birmingham, denies murder and cruelty.

Mr Bowley said Gemma had died from suffocation and asphyxiation. A pathologist had found bruises and abrasions on her head and face, both legs and arms, and multiple bruises on her buttocks and upper legs, which were probably inflicted deliberately with a stick.

He said Gemma was taken into care at her birth, and was placed with a number of foster parents before she was returned

to her natural parents on a trial basis on March 7.

On March 14, Gemma was visited by a social worker and four days later her mother, Yvonne, took her to a family centre. On both occasions she was in good health.

On March 21, Gemma's grandfather visited the family home where the girl's father said bruising on her cheek and chin had been the result of a fall. Mr Bowley said a planned family visit to Gemma's grandparents two days later was cancelled because Mr Hartwell said he needed to work on his car.

Mr Bowley said: "The prosecution suggests that may well have been not only because the child was showing signs of the treatment meted out to her. It may also have been because by then she was dead."

On Saturday, March 23, a neighbour saw Mr Hartwell and a man called Eugene Wright load something covered in a black plastic bag into the boot of Mr Hartwell's car.

Mr Bowley said Gemma's body was buried in the Clent Hills. Mr and Mrs Hartwell and Mr Wright had returned home, cleaned themselves up, and they

went to the Pershore Street market in Birmingham and reported Gemma missing.

The police were not satisfied with their stories and after further interviews Mr Wright took them to Gemma's grave where her "battered body" was found.

Later that night, Mr Hartwell allegedly made a written statement in which he said he had placed a ball of wool in Gemma's mouth and tied it with a scarf to stop her screaming. The statement allegedly said: "It got on our nerves."

Mr Hartwell's statement allegedly said that he had given her a push and she banged her head on a cot belonging to her baby brother, Phillip.

It was also told that Mr Hartwell's statement continued: "I tried to get the wool out of her mouth. I forced her mouth apart and I noticed she was struggling for breath. I gave her the kiss of life."

Mr Bowley said Mr Hartwell later told the police: "It was an accident. I never meant to harm her."

The case was adjourned until today.



Staff at Phillips, the auctioneers, manoeuvring a Roman

marble statue of Hercules into position yesterday for the sale in London on November 26, when it is expected to make £50,000. The 6ft statue, dated second century AD, came to light when a lake was dredged in the grounds of an agricultural laboratory at Letcombe

Manor, near Wantage, Berkshire, where it has remained as a mascot for two years. No one knows why it was pushed into the water, or by whom, about 50 years ago. A rumoured companion piece, female, has not been recovered. (Photograph: John Manning).

Embryo screening 'could cut handicaps'

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The birth of thousands of severely handicapped children could be avoided in the next few years through developments in test-tube baby techniques, experts predicted yesterday.

At least 50 types of congenital disease may eventually be detectable by "pre-embryo screening" within the first few days after fertilization, they said.

Disorders that could be detected among couples at risk include muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis and Down's syndrome and were among those which cause almost half of childhood deaths.

The prospects were outlined yesterday at the launch of Progress, an organization formed to protect controlled research into human reproduction.

It is being supported by the British Medical Association, the National Association for the Childless, 12 other groups, members of parliament and leading doctors and scientists.

Delegates from Progress are meeting Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, today to ask him to set up a government working party to investigate the potential benefits of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) research.

Such a committee should report to Parliament before there is any legislation on research, Mr Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton North East, said yesterday.

Four jailed for supplying hard drugs to students

From Tim Jones, Gloucester

Four young drug dealers were jailed yesterday after being told by a judge at Gloucester Crown Court that they had enabled others to obtain drugs, causing them untold misery.

Their activities led to wide-scale drug-taking by students at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, where Captain Mark Phillips was once a student, and which has the Prince of Wales as its patron.

Judge Gabriel Hutton said: "Heroin and cocaine, both class A drugs, are killers. The use of them causes misery, degradation and often death to the people who use them, and brings untold misery not only to them, but to their families."

Lucy French, aged 24, of Ashmore Farm, Meopham, Kent, stood motionless as the judge said people who supplied hard drugs could expect to go to prison for substantial periods.

French, well known among the point-to-point riding fraternity, had pleaded guilty to 14 charges of possessing and supplying drugs and had asked for 103 other offences to be considered. She was sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment.

Her fellow students at the college, David West, aged 21, of Staplehurst, Kent, who had introduced French to cocaine and supplied it at the college, admitted seven offences and asked for another 20 to be taken into account. He was sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment.

Piers Ritchley-Pritchard, aged 24, of Nether Lyptott, Gloucestershire, was sentenced to eighteen months after admitting three offences, and asking for another 13 to be taken into account, and Jonathan Peat, aged 22, of Holly Mount, Hampstead, north London, who pleaded guilty to five offences was jailed for two years.

Mr Vic Hughes, the college principal, said yesterday: "It was an evil thing, and I hope the sentences deter any others who may be tempted."

Judge's warning on contempt

Judge Gabriel Hutton yesterday warned journalists they risked breaking the contempt of court laws by their reporting of the Royal Agricultural College drugs case. He said the bench was "very concerned" about reporting in the case and warned that newspapers could face severe penalties if they published prejudicial articles before sentences were passed.

Sitting with two magistrates, the judge said that the *London Standard* and the *Western Daily Press* in Bristol had reported matters which the bench considered were potentially prejudicial to the accused, and which were not disclosed in court by either the prosecution or the defence. The material was published before the bench had considered the sentences.

Jail for woman who beat her children

A woman who beat, bit and burned her two children, was yesterday jailed for six months by Bristol Crown Court.

Gail Clemett and her boyfriend, James Lane, had been convicted earlier of assaulting or ill-treating her daughter Bethan, aged two, and son Nicholas, aged three.

Lane, already serving a two-

year sentence for cruelty to his step-daughter, who died at the age of 22 months, had been jailed for a further 18 months.

Judge Llewellyn Jones, passing sentence on Clemett, told her: "Until you are prepared to accept your part in these events I doubt you are fit to be in charge of those children."

The court was told that the

couple had ill-treated the two children after Lane moved into Clemett's flat on the Gibbons-down Estate in Barry, Mid-Glamorgan, in January, 1984.

It was said that Bethan had been burned with lit cigarettes and on one occasion the children were forced to drink milk laced with pepper to "teach them a lesson".

13 soldiers accused of WRAC rape

A WRAC aged 22 was raped, sexually assaulted and subjected to sexual indignities by 13 paratroopers, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

The soldiers pleaded not guilty to raping or indecently assaulting her on a night in November last year at a barracks on Salisbury Plain.

Mr John Spokes, QC, said for the prosecution that the girl had gone to the barracks of her own accord with one of the accused. What she did not know was that the man had agreed to keep her there so that she could be raped.

Her legs and arms were held and she was raped, and indecently assaulted. The girl was then taken into another room by three men. By that time she was completely exhausted, but she was raped again and forced to have oral sex.

The prosecution alleged that when the police searched the barracks they found a camera containing a film showing one of the rapes.

Later, said Mr Spokes, when the WRAC complained that she had been raped, one of the men told her: "You have got to expect that when they have been on the beer."

The trial was adjourned until today.

MPs seek motorway lighting

By Clifford Webb Motoring Correspondent

An all-party group of MPs has told Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, that the biggest contribution she can make to improving the safety of Britain's motorways is to light them from end to end.

More than 1,300 miles of the 1,755-mile system are unlit. The case for full motorway lighting will be put in the Commons on Friday when the House debates recent multiple crashes and the Opposition's call for urgent government action to improve motorway driving. It will be put by Mr Peter Brabeck, Conservative MP for Leicester East and the joint chairman of the British Parliamentary Lighting Group.

Yesterday Mr Brabeck said: "A start could be made on the M1, the most important motorway in this country, yet only 68 miles of it are lit. We estimate that it could be lit from end to end for only £9 million."

We could light the remaining 1,300 miles of motorways for an additional £81 million and that outlay would be recouped in no time by a significant reduction in accidents."

Whitbread book award reshaped

By Our Literary Editor

Whitbread has re-organized its literary awards this year to try to remedy the fact that he Booker Prize for Fiction, which provides less money and names only one winner instead of Whitbread's five, gets more publicity.

One member of each of the five panels of judges who choose the category winners will join six judges from the literary and celebrity world to select the Whitbread Book of the Year.

The five category winners will each receive £1,000 and the winning author, to be announced on January 28, will receive £17,500, Britain's most valuable literary prize.

The five category nominations, announced yesterday, are: Novel: *Hawksmoor*, by Peter Ackroyd (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95); First Novel: *Onesies*, by Peter Ackroyd (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95); Children's Novel: *The Nature of the Beast*, by Jemima Hawker (Julia MacRae, £6.95); Biography/Autobiography: *Hugh Dalton*, by Ben Pinnett (Cape, £25); Poetry: *Elegies*, by Douglas Dunn (Faber, £7.50, paperback £4).

Stepfather on murder charge

Ronald William Barton aged 45, an unemployed minicab driver, of Mildenhall Road, Clapton, east London, was committed for trial by magistrates at Newham, east London, yesterday, charged with the abduction and murder of Keighley Barton, aged 14, his step-daughter.

Reporting restrictions were lifted at the request of the defence. The girl failed to return to her home in Sebert Road, Forest Gate, east London, after taking her dog for a walk last August.

Report brands unhealthy city

Manchester is one of the unhealthiest places in Britain, largely because of diet, general social deprivation and a lack of knowledge about healthy living, according to a report released yesterday.

Dr Peter Povey, district medical officer for Central Manchester, and one of the authors of the report, said that in parts of the city deaths from respiratory diseases and lung cancer were running at more than twice the national average.

Hospital cooling towers cleared

Two air-conditioning cooling towers at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where three people have died from Legionnaires' disease, have been cleared of the bacteria carrying the illness, Greater Glasgow Health Board said yesterday.

The hospital wing will re-open next week.

Pilot suspended

A Quantas Airline Pilot, who was ordered off his Boeing 747 as it prepared to take off from Heathrow airport with 428 people on board, has been suspended while he undergoes medical checks.

Retailers to step up computer price war

By Gregory Neale

Christmas sales of home computers and computer games are likely to bring increased competition between retailers this year, as shoppers are wowed with a mixture of price cuts, package deals, celebrity games and more powerful machines.

Retailers and manufacturers claim that for the discriminating shopper this season will be one of the best, as the home computer industry seeks to climb out of its recession.

Computer hardware manufacturers were cautiously optimistic yesterday that last year's over-ordering by shops would not be repeated. Indeed, some stories may find that lines are in short supply.

"There has never been a better time to buy a personal computer," Mr Greff Godward, purchasing controller for Lesky's, the electrical and electronic goods chain store,

said. "This year, the trend is to good value. People are buying earlier, and there may be shortages of some items by Christmas."

A feature of the market is the trend towards selling packages of computers with accessory equipment, or "peripherals", and software items. In the Sinclair Compendium pack, for example, the Spectrum Plus computer is coupled with a cassette recorder for loading programmes, a joystick for playing computer games on a screen, and 12 software titles.

The package is selling for between £139 and £149 in the shops, well below the combined price of the items when sold separately. Similar package deals are being offered for computers such as the Commodore 64, one of Sinclair's main rivals.

Chemists fear closures after new contract

Chemists have been told by Mr Barney Hayhoe, the Minister for Health, that the Government will legislate to bring in a controversial new contract for pharmacists.

The contract is likely to close several hundred smaller shops, but its advocates claim it will produce a better spread of pharmacies.

Implementation of the new contract, which will save the National Health Service £4 million a year and provide money to develop pharmacy services, was cancelled at the last minute in September.

Strong Medicine, Page 16

Pop singer wins legal fight for solo career

Jay Aston, aged 24, former singer with the pop group, Bucks Fizz, was given the go-ahead yesterday to launch a solo career. She has been locked in bitter legal battles with the group's creator, Nicola Martin.

But at a brief High Court hearing yesterday Mr Justice Warner was told by Miss Aston's counsel, Mr Jeffrey Astor, that Miss Martin's company, Big Note Music Productions, promised not to claim she was still under contract with them.

They had alleged that she was still bound by the contract

sentences of life, after listening to legal arguments.

Judge Conihard made his controversial ruling last week at the end of the prosecution case against the Beards, formerly of Manor Road, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.

Beard, who also admitted charges of theft and absconding, was jailed for a total of three-and-a-half years. His wife was sent to a probation hostel for reports after she was convicted by the jury of ill-treating her son.

Jury criticizes judge's ruling

A jury has criticized a judge for dropping charges against a couple accused of physically abusing their child.

Ten jurors wrote expressing their "disatisfaction" with the judge's ruling ordering them to acquit John Beard, aged 23, and his wife Susan, aged 20, who had been accused of beating the hand of their son Craig, aged 2, by holding it over a heater.

When Judge Alan Conihard ordered that the serious assault charges be dropped, the jurors

took the rare step of signing the protest letter, which was handed to Judge Conihard at Bedford Crown Court last night with a request that he place their dissatisfaction with his ruling on the record.

The judge read out the letter in open court after sentencing Beard, who is Craig's stepfather, and his wife for an offence of child cruelty.

He explained that it had been his duty to withdraw charges of grievous bodily harm, which carry maximum

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Lower spending means scope for tax cuts

LAW AND ORDER

£174m boost to increase police and prison staff

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government is backing its priority for law and order with extra cash to pay for more police, prison and probation staff.

The Chancellor's statement provides for increased Home Office spending of £174 million in 1986/87 and £135 million in 1987/88, over the 1985 White Paper projections. That will bring Home Office spending up to £4,960 million in 1986/87, and £5,004.7 million in 1987/88.

Extra money will go towards an increase in overall police force manpower, uniformed and civilian, from £164,600 at the end of September to more than £167,000 by March 1987.

Some forces may want to put a greater emphasis on uniformed officers rather than on civilians to release trained officers to go on the beat.

It is thought likely that uniformed police strength may go up by about 1,000. The police establishment in England and Wales at the moment is 122,400, and its strength is 120,500. The increase continues a trend. Uniformed and civilian manpower have risen by 13,000 since May 1979. The pay settlement two months ago for ranks up to and including chief superintendent, was 7.5 per cent.

About 240 extra police officers are to be recruited by March 1987 to regional crime squads in the fight against drug trafficking.

Among other central Home Office spending, provision is made for an increase of £1.8 million in the fight against drugs.

The figures for spending on police in 1987/88 and 1988/89, like those for magistrates' courts and the probation service, are necessarily provisional, the Home Office says, pending decisions on the provision to be made for local authority expenditure in those years.

Increased spending in magistrates' courts in 1986/87 will allow for about 400 additional staff. About 250 of them will be needed for the extended use of fixed penalties for road traffic offences to be introduced in October 1986.

About 100 extra probation staff, officers and auxiliaries will be recruited by 1986/87 to bring the total to nearly 7,000.

The increase in spending on prisons in England and Wales - £30 million in 1986/87 and £48 million in 1988/89 - reflects the need to keep abreast of the prison population and provide for the design costs of an additional two new prisons, about £3.4 million in 1986/87.

The existing building programme is designed to provide 7,700 places in 16 new prisons, and 4,000 extra places in existing prison establishments by the early 1990s. The first three prisons, whose sites are not yet identified, will be started after 1988/89 and will provide another 1,000 places.

The increase in the prison population and the need to staff new jails means that provision is now being made for an increase of 3,500 prison staff by 1989 to bring the total to about 31,600.

The prison population on November 8 was 46,817, as opposed to an official capacity of 40,478.

AUTUMN STATEMENT

Increased public spending in 1986-87 of £250 million on the national health service, of £230 million net of receipts on housing of £54 million for capital expenditure on national and local roads and just over £1,000 million on the social security programme were among figures announced by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer in his autumn statement.

He said that the Government would maintain firm control over public spending with spending totals for 1986-87 and 1987-88 being held at levels set out in the Budget.

For the next three years public spending in real terms was expected to be broadly flat or very slightly below this year's level.

He added that the framework of public expenditure control set out in the statement would allow scope for considered and justified reductions in the burden of taxation.

Mr Lawson said this year's autumn statement contained considerably more information than its predecessors, breaking down the public expenditure forecast for 1986-87 for each department, and the plans not just for the year immediately ahead but for each of the next two years.

He went on: The outcome for this financial year is expected to be the same as set out in the Budget, that is, £134 billion. After allowing for inflation this is in real terms a very slight decline as it has since 1982-83. By 1988-89 the total has been set at £149 billion.

Over these three years public spending in real terms is expected to be broadly flat or very slightly below this year's level. As a percentage of national output it will continue to decline as it has since 1982-83. By 1988-89 it should be back to its lowest percentage since 1972-73.

In order to meet contingencies, the plans contain large reserves, rising from £4.5 billion in 1986-87 to £8 billion in 1988-89. The reduction in the reserve for 1986-87

as compared with the provisional reserve for that year which I announced at the time of the Budget chiefly reflects the fact that a passage of time allows part of the reserve to be given year by year to be allocated to individual expenditure programmes as their costs become known more accurately. But the £4.5 billion reserve for the year immediately ahead remains a substantial figure.

Proceeds from privatization

Although I expect the planning total for 1985-86 to be the same as I did at the time of the Budget, the proceeds from privatization will be a significant addition to the usual margin of uncertainty at this time of year - is forecast to be about £1 billion higher, some £8 billion rather than £7 billion. This is due to lower sterling oil revenues. But even at £8 billion the PSBR would still be the smallest it has been as a percentage of GDP since 1971-72.

The PSBR, of course, have been running at a higher level than this were it not for the proceeds from privatization, to which I will turn in a moment. Even without the privatization proceeds, this year's forecast PSBR would still be the smallest as a percentage of GDP since 1971-72.

The Government's privatization programme is now getting into top gear and will continue for many years to come. I cannot stress too strongly the importance of this programme - now being emulated throughout the world - as a fundamental objective of Government policy.

The transfer of state-owned businesses to the free enterprise sector of the economy brings enormous long-term benefits to the nation as a whole. It provides greater concern for the customer and increased efficiency. It also provides the opportunity for a massive boost to wider share ownership, both among the public in general and the employees of these great enterprises in particular.

The increased pace of privatization means that the proceeds from this programme will rise substantially from £2.5 billion this year to £4.75 billion in each of the next three years.

In particular, the planned flotation of the British Gas Corporation is included for the first time. At the same time, however, there have been increases in a number of public expenditure programmes so that the overall planning totals have remained unchanged.

However, this needs to be seen in perspective. Even if the proceeds from privatization were to be ignored altogether, the public expenditure planning total would still be broadly flat in real terms, at less than 1 per cent above this year's total, and public spending would still be on a steadily declining path as a percentage of GDP, reaching by 1988-89 its lowest level since 1972-73.

The annual review of public spending provides an opportunity to reconsider priorities and adjust the balance between programmes. While some programmes this year have been held back, it has been possible to make significant additions to others.

There will be increased spending on the national health service over previous plans of £250 million in 1986-87 and £300 million in 1987-88. On top of this, health authorities are able to spend the income from their cost improvement programmes which are expected to amount to £130 million this year and still more in future years. This should enable health authorities to meet the graphic pressures and deliver improvements in services as well.

Total public sector provision for housing is being increased by £220 million net of receipts in 1986-87 and £200 million in 1987-88, and the housing plans now provide for some £3.5 billion of capital spending next year. Within this total the Government believes there should be a substantial shift in priorities in favour of renovation of the existing public sector housing stock.

An extra £54 million in 1986-87 and £71 million in 1987-88 is being made available for capital expenditure on national and local roads.

Just over £1 billion is being added to the social security programme for 1986-87, largely as a result of the 7 per cent increase in benefit levels which took effect this month. Expenditure in

the subsequent years of the survey period is subject to decisions on the Government's social security review, on which a White Paper will be published shortly.

Additional provision has been made under the law and order programme to allow local authorities to direct extra spending towards the police.

For defence, the provision is unchanged. After the substantial real increases in spending since 1978-79, from which the income programme will continue to benefit, the emphasis must now switch to improving our defence capability through greater efficiency and saving money, especially in procurement.

On employment, there were large additions in the Budget to fund an expansion of the youth training scheme and the community programme. In this survey, a number of new initiatives have been agreed but savings are to be made by a reduction in payments from the redundancy fund.

There have been significant improvements in efficiency and value for money in many programmes. It is a great mistake to fall into the trap of measuring public expenditure programmes solely on terms of the money put into them; it is improved output that matters.

Further details of these and other changes are contained in the autumn statement itself, and of course full details together with questions on running costs and manpower, will be given in the public expenditure White Paper to be published early in the new year.

The Government has conducted the usual autumn review of national insurance contributions in the light of advice from the Government's independent Committee on National Insurance and expenditure of the national insurance fund.

The lower earnings limit will be increased next April to £36 a week, in line with the single person's pension, and the upper earnings limit will be similarly increased to £2,000 a week, broadly in line with earnings.

I announced in the Budget reduced rates of contribution for the lower paid and their employers - 5 per cent for those earning up to £55 a week, 7 per cent for those earning up to £90 a week and 9 per cent for employers of workers earning up to £150 a week. These took effect at the beginning of last month and are already starting to provide welcome assistance to the low paid and their employers, and a stimulus to the employment of the young and unskilled.

The limits for these reduced rate bands will also be increased from April, in line with the lower and upper earnings limits, to £60, £95 and £140 a week respectively.

There will be no change in the main Class 1 contribution rates, which will remain at 9 per cent for employers and 10.45 per cent for employees. This is the third year running in which national insurance contribution rates have been held constant, despite a growing number of previous years when the substantial uprating of benefits, taking effect later this month.

Economy is progressing

Finally, the Industry Act forecast. The economy is progressing very much as I envisaged at the time of the Budget.

Inflation is falling again after the predicted rise in the spring, although I now expect inflation to fall below the Budget forecast of 5.5 per cent rather than 5 per cent.

The overall growth of the economy this year still looks like turning out at 3.5 per cent - the highest rate of growth since 1973.

The pattern of growth, too, has been much as envisaged. Exports and business investment, as expected, were the fastest growing elements in demand in the fourth quarter of the year. The rise in total investment is now put at 4 per cent in 1985; within this figure business investment is expected to be up by 7 to 8 per cent, to yet another all-time record.

As a result of this steady progress, there has been a substantial growth in the number of people in work since 1983. This has now been reflected in a levelling out in

Privatization only buys time

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs reacting to the Autumn Statement, said the Treasury's note on the Autumn Statement described it as "a dream come true".

He said it was a dream come true for the 3½ million men and women unemployed or families concerned about child benefits or those paying more tax or higher interest rates.

The size of the fiscal adjustments was not included this time because they had ended up as tax promises which Mr Lawson had failed to deliver.

Could temporary tax cuts be financed without selling off national assets? What other possible explanation is there for creating a private monopoly which is already equipped with the power to fleece its consumers? Would Mr Lawson tell us the long-term implications?

What happens when the privatization of assets runs out? Does he think that the taxes they financed should be restored or more cuts made in public expenditure?

All Mr Lawson can buy with the proceeds of the sale of British Gas is time. What happens when the privatization proceeds run out, and what happens when the oil revenue runs out and the House of Lords' report, which predicted the collapse of manufacturing industry, is proved to be true.

Mr Lawson said if Mr Hattersley had read the statement he would have seen that public expenditure was declining steadily as a proportion of gross domestic product even if no account was taken of privatization and therefore the scope for tax reductions is assured.

What privatization did was enable tax cuts to be brought forward to the great benefit of the economy.

Privatization (the way on) will not merely carry on throughout this Parliament but it will carry on throughout the next Parliament as well. I am glad to learn that Mr Hattersley is confident we will be in office for a further six years.

He told Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L): There is no reduction in the aid budget. The aid budget has been increased and it will be maintained in real terms throughout the survey period.

Mr John Townend (Bridlington, C): Some MPs are disappointed that the Government has not been able to reduce public expenditure and regret that after deduction of asset

sales, Government spending will increase by £7 billion next year.

Mr Lawson: Unlike the previous Government we are steadily reducing expenditure as a share of gross domestic product.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) asked if there was any room to return to a lower standard rate of income tax of 25 per cent in order to reduce the disincentives for those first going to work.

Mr Lawson said he would be happy to look at the suggestion.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, West, Lab) asked Mr Lawson to indicate to what extent the predicted consumer-led boom in imports would reduce the current account surplus on the current account surplus on the current account surplus.

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Townend: Spending up by £7 billion

balance of payments to rise from £3 billion this year to £4 billion next year.

Mr Ian Wigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP) said the Government had done an about turn. It was refuting the economy by selling off public assets. If the Chancellor had a fiscal adjustment to make later in the year he should ensure that it went into creating jobs and helping the economy, not into the pockets of the Government's mistaken policies.

Mr Lawson said the employment project was not as good as he would like but it was clearly improving.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) has Mr Lawson any idea how deeply offensive it is to him and the Government to talk of six years of steady growth in those areas which have suffered six years of 20 per cent unemployment or more? When is this boasted prosperity to reach those areas?

Mr Lawson said he had never sought to deny the unemployment problem in some areas but the

Opposition should not deny the success in economic growth and lower inflation.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Lab) said that the Prime Minister's speech to the House that increased infrastructure was not a cost-effective way of increasing jobs, is today's statement intended to increase or decrease unemployment?

Mr Lawson: The Government's policy is designed to do, among other things, what it can to help create new jobs and new jobs are being created faster than in the rest of the rest of the EEC put together.

Mr John Browne (Winchester, C): What is his thinking about interest rates because these are hitting British business and its chance to expand?

Mr Lawson: Interest rates will be kept no higher than is necessary to ensure that there are no conditions which are sufficient to bring down inflation. I will not take any chances with inflation.

Mr Mark Fisher (Stoke-on-Trent Central, Lab): What is the estimate for the deficit on the balance of trade in manufacturing?

Mr Lawson: It will not be very different from this year or last.

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C): The injection of extra money into the health service comes at a critical time which has resulted in some contraction of services. This money will alter things much for the better.

Mr Lawson: I am still concerned about the waste that goes on within the NHS. There is scope to get an enormously greater amount of value and output from the existing expenditure and I hope those responsible in the health service will address themselves very quickly to achieving those savings.

Mr Allen McKay (Barnesley, West and Peninsular, Lab): How many people will get work as a result of his asset-stripping and this year?

Mr Lawson: It is not the custom to give forecasts of unemployment, but I expect the growth in employment to continue.

Mr Hattersley: He told me the sale of British assets was nothing more than a bribe to get tax reductions. Will he therefore confirm there can be none this year or next without the sale of British Gas?

Mr Lawson: I said nothing of the sort and therefore I can confirm nothing of the sort.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L) said the GMC should not be allowed to prevent doctors using the appeals procedure. Mr Fowler said that given the history of the selected list and the controversy in the medical profession, it would be foolish to try to impose an appeals mechanism on a profession which did not seem to want it.

Limited list producing savings

PRESCRIBING

Despite the early controversy, the limited list of drugs available on the National Health Service has been working well, and is producing sensible savings for the health service, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said during Commons questions on Tuesday.

He said the limited list had been a disaster was an understatement. It was causing anxiety to patients, constituents and doctors in his constituency.

Earlier, Mr Michael Latham (Reading, Lib) said he was still getting letters from constituents and doctors complaining that they could not get the drugs they needed.

Would Mr Fowler try again to persuade the British Medical Association to agree to a local approval system?

Mr Fowler said he had put forward his own proposals on an appeal mechanism for doctors but the General Medical Services Committee had rejected these. The GMC did not put forward any proposals of its own. He would note Mr Latham's comment but not say on present evidence that any further action was needed.

Mr Roger Thomas (Carmarthen, Lab) asked how many new drugs Mr Fowler intended to add to the list for each month since April this year. What reduction had there been in the savings expected?

He appealed again to Mr Fowler to put the new medicine drugs on the list.

Mr Fowler said he would be happy to take any suggestions from constituents and doctors who would like to see new drugs on the list.

Mr Fowler said that given the history of the selected list and the controversy in the medical profession, it would be foolish to try to impose an appeals mechanism on a profession which did not seem to want it.

Ministers to study TSB judgement

COURT CASE

The decision of the Court of Session in Edinburgh that the assets of the Trustee Savings Bank are the property of its depositors led to Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, seeking an assurance from the Prime Minister that she would sell only those items to which she has a valid title.

Mrs Thatcher replied that it was better to see the court judgement before commenting on it.

Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross, Cromarty and Skye, SDP) who raised the matter in the Commons asked: Given the welcome news this morning that Lord Davidson has ruled that the assets of the TSB are indeed the property of the Scottish depositors, and given that Lord Taylor, Lord of the Scottish Bench, has ruled that the TSB has successfully moved an Alliance amendment to the Trustee Savings Bank Bill to protect these and other interests, will Mrs Thatcher undertake to review the judgement and, in the light of the ruling, will she agree to introduce any orders naming a vesting day?

Mrs Thatcher: We shall be considering the judgement very carefully indeed and will make a statement when we have done so.

Mr Steel: Will she undertake in reviewing the judgement to abandon the attempt to deprive depositors of their property?

Mrs Thatcher: He seeks an instant reply to a judgement which we have not yet seen in full; obviously, the result we know.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) asked: Legislation in the light of the judgement would be expropriation of assets without compensation, and in the light of the assurance she gave that the findings of the Scottish court would have to be obeyed, will she agree that there will be no appeal to the English House of Lords?

Mrs Thatcher: The law has to be upheld but there is a right to the remedies which the law provides. I hope he will not go in for instant comment.

Mr Steel said that as the Prime Minister had said the Government would reflect on the judgement, she should add that the Treasury press notice which had already been put out announcing that there would be an appeal, was incorrect.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that did not arise from the question.

New moves to reduce dole queue

EMPLOYMENT

Two new methods of improving the job prospects of unemployed people are to be tested in seven pilot areas for six months from next January.

Mr David Clark, Paymaster General, and chief Commons spokesman on employment said in a statement.

The first, he said, was to ask the Manpower Services Commission to ask long-term unemployed people in pilot areas to a counselling interview with a job adviser and second to pay a weekly allowance of £20 to anyone unemployed for more than 12 months finding a job at a gross income of less than £80 a week in a job start scheme.

He announced also the end of the system for sharing part of the cost of statutory redundancy payments with businesses, due to end next month, would be extended to the end of the financial year while the Government considered its longer-term future.

The rebate would not be payable for redundancies taking effect after October 31 1986. The change did not affect employers' entitlements.

It had been decided to expand the enterprise allowance scheme to a maximum of 80,000 new entrants a year in 1986-87 at an additional cost of £17.5 million, an increase of 20 per cent.

The loan guarantee scheme to aid start-up businesses, due to end next month, would be extended to the end of the financial year while the Government considered its longer-term future.

The support given in England to local enterprise agencies was to be increased by £2.5 million. It provided business advice and practical assistance to small firms at local level.

The Government was increasing funds available to the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board to £40 million, an increase of about 20 per cent in funding.

Mr Clarke added: In the improving climate for jobs, we are determined to increase our contact with those long-term unemployed people who may have been losing hope.

We have already started the expansion of job clubs, which have so far achieved remarkable success in helping the unemployed find jobs who use them. We are writing to all long-term unemployed people inviting them to contact their job centres for advice and support and the two pilot schemes to reinforce our determination to help long-term unemployed people back into jobs.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said the proposals were more to do with massaging the unemployment figures for the coming general election than to do with increasing real employment. The Job Start scheme was more concerned to play a part in reducing wage levels than about meeting the needs of real jobs.

Mr Clarke said everyone concerned about the problems of over one million long-term unemployed. The fact that there was now an improving climate for jobs made it easier to do so.

The trouble with the long-term unemployed (said) is that as the job situation improves often their work of record experience in the recent past makes them less attractive to employers. Hence the introduction of the £20 payment.

Telephone bingo a commercial judgement

HOUSE OF LORDS

While British Telecom's experiment with telephone bingo might not be strictly illegal, it was contrary to the spirit of the Gaming Act, Lord Allen of Abberley (Ind) said in the House of Lords.

After Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said the decision to allow the commercial judgement of the company, Lord Allen of Abberley stated: With newspaper bingo, you at least get something to read for your money, but this is not gambling pure and simple?

Lord Glenarthur: With newspaper bingo it is not essential to make a payment to take part and the courts have not found newspaper bingo illegal.

Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab): This experiment was not something contemplated when the Gaming Act was passed. It was going through this House. From what source are funds going to be made available for the playing of bingo?

Would he be the House an assurance that in future the principal aim of British Telecom should be that of reducing the prices for its services to the consumer?

Lord Glenarthur: A source of funds is one that would stimulate more telephone calls and that would do what Lord Donington wants.

Most pressing problem

LAW AND ORDER

Public order, or the lack of it, was one of the most pressing problems of the time and that was why it was an essential part of the Government's autumn statement, Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in opening the Queen's Speech debate in the House of Lords on home and environmental affairs.

In the 50 years that had passed since the Public Order Act, he said, new threats faced the people of the United Kingdom from which they had to be protected.

But the right to peaceful protest and assembly remained a fundamental freedom and the Government was determined that any limitations on this freedom should be the minimum necessary to preserve order.

Lord Mischon (Lab) for the

Guidance under review

GILLICK CASE

The House of Lords decision on the Gillick case did not mean the pill would be "shelved" out like jelly babies to very young girls by some doctors, Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, said during Commons questions.

This suggestion, made by Mr Harry Greenwood (Ealing North, C), was a slur on the medical profession and others involved, he added when indicating that the existing guidance to doctors on the use of oral contraceptives to girls under 16 was being reviewed.

The first review would take into account the detail of the House of

Urgent response to hospital hygiene criticisms

Given the recent critical reports about wards and hospital kitchens (Mr Alan Renton) it is not time that hospitals were asked to consider the exemption from prosecution they currently enjoy?

Mr Hayhoe: I certainly recognize the concern of those who pick up infections going into hospital and the first priority must surely be to take action to deal with dirty, bug-infested kitchens or other areas in hospitals. The question of Crown immunity is under consideration.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab): Surveys show that 60 per cent of NHS hospitals have food hygiene standards below the Government's food hygiene regulations and 16 per cent would warrant prosecution without Crown immunity.

Mr Hayhoe: I have indicated that Crown immunity is under consideration. A general change in that immunity would require primary legislation.

Mr Michael Stern (Bristol North West, C): Will he reject the "big bang" theory that would be involved in the abolition of Crown immunity and provide opportunities for hospitals and other public buildings to reassure the public of the generally very high standards of hygiene that currently exist there?

Mr Hayhoe: That would be generally true. Crown immunity should not, and must not, be used by those responsible for deferring or postponing action.

Aid budget to rise to £1,187m

OVERSEAS

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Public concern about drought and famine in Africa has persuaded the Chancellor of the Exchequer to approve an increase in the overseas aid budget.

Mr Lawson announced yesterday that the British aid programme would be increased to £1,187 million in 1986/87, a rise of £57 million or 5 per cent over the 1985/86 figure of £1,130 million. That is slightly higher than the forecast rate of inflation.

There will be further increases in the net aid programme to £1,230 million and £1,270 million in the two following years.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, said later he was "very satisfied" with the increase, most of which would go towards agricultural-related projects in Africa. The increase had been achieved in the face of considerable pressure to cut the aid programme or at least keep it at existing levels.

A decision will be taken during the next few days whether to continue the RAF's aid operations in Ethiopia beyond the December deadline.

Part of the increase will be used to fund a new soft-loan facility to help Third World countries to buy British products and services to assist in development programmes.

Fears over grant for council

ARTS

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Arts bodies are bracing themselves for a difficult winter. Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, will reveal later this week how much the Arts Council will receive in its annual grant, but the figure is likely to fall far short of the £161 million claimed. The allocation of the rest of the arts budget is not expected for two weeks.

The council's claim for a rise in its income from £106 million to £161 million is based on the fact that its increase last year fell short of inflation and the extra requirements placed upon it by the abolition of the metropolitan counties. It estimates that the latter alone requires an increase in state funds of £35 million.

The Government is committed to spending an extra £16 million towards money lost through abolition. Yesterday's figures were not broken down into the separate areas of the arts budget, but it seems certain that the Arts Council's arguments for a further substantial increase for abolition have been lost. The programme envisages a net increase of about £4 million in central government expenditure and local authority capital expenditure on the arts.

The changes will involve some increased provision for the Arts Council.

British Gas sell-off to boost rise in revenue

PRIVATIZATION

By Teresa Poole

British Telecom (£1,160 million). The forthcoming sale of the remaining shares in Cable and Wireless will bring in another £500 million.

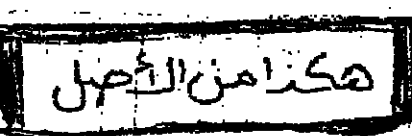
Next year will probably see the sale of British Airways for more than £1 billion, and of the Royal Ordnance Factories for up to £300 million. There will also be the third payment from British Telecom (£1,170 million) and a first instalment of at least £2 billion from British Gas.

In 1987-8 likely candidates for privatization are the British Airways Authority, the Rolls Royce aero engine business, and part of the remaining government stake in British Petroleum which is worth about £3 billion.

After April 1988 the Government will be free to sell off a further tranche of shares in British Telecom.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE				Excluding Sales of Assets			
Including Sales of Assets		Real terms (1984/85 base)		General government as % of GDP		Cash	
1984/85	1985/86	1984/85	1985/86	1984/85	1985/86	1984/85	1985/86
126.7	128.7	45.1	45.1	131.8	131.8	45.1	45.1
134.2	127.6	44.4	44.4	130.7	130.7	44.4	44.4
131.1	127.6	44.4	44.4	130.7	130.7	44.4	44.4
143.9	128.7	44.4	44.4	131.1	131.1	44.4	44.4
148.7	127.1	41	41	130.7	130.7	41	41

Source: Treasury



NHS relief • Research boost • Spending 'stable' • Tax allowances up

CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

Economy forecast to grow by 3% and trend in jobless 'favourable'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Treasury, in its autumn statement, sets out a programme in which public spending is held stable in real terms, within the context of a growing, low-inflation economy.

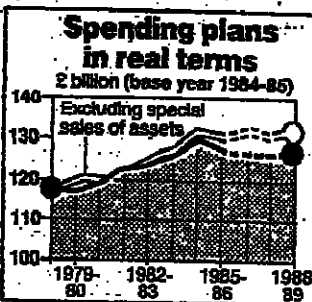
The economy is forecast to grow by 3 per cent next year, 0.5 per cent of that coming from the remaining contribution of the recovery from the effects of oil strike. This year's growth is estimated at 3.5 per cent. Employment is expected to continue to grow and, while no forecast is made of unemployment, the Treasury says that "the trend in unemployment should continue to be more favourable than over the last two years".

Contained in the statement is the unemployment assumption for the purposes of national insurance. It is that, after averaging 3.05 million this year, adult unemployment in Britain is three million in the following three years.

The economic forecast is one of consumer-led growth next year, with consumer spending rising by 4 per cent compared with 2.5 per cent investment and exports are forecast to grow by only 2 per cent, after 7 per cent this year.

Despite that, the Treasury expects a substantial £4 billion surplus on current account, up from this year's £3 billion, although the manufacturing deficit is forecast to widen from £3.5 billion to £4.5 billion. Manufacturing output is expected to rise by 2.5 per cent, as this year.

The Treasury is expecting a substantial drop in inflation next year. From a current rate of 5.9 per cent, and an unexpected fourth quarter rate of 5.5 per cent (the Treasury originally expected 5 per cent) the rate is scheduled to dip to 3.75 per cent by the middle of



next year, and stay there until the end of the year.

That is in spite of continued strong growth in wages, which is not expected to ease significantly. The general level of pay settlements is assumed to remain broadly the same - earnings rose by 7.5 per cent in the pay round which ended in the summer.

It means that real earnings are predicted to grow strongly, by 3.4 per cent, and probably given a further boost by personal tax cuts in the spring.

No tax cut forecasts are provided in the statement but the economic forecast is said to be consistent with macro-economic policies as set out at the time of the last Budget. Those included tax cuts, or an "implied fiscal adjustment" for 1986/87 of £3.5 billion.

The downward pressure on inflation this does not come from wages but from the effects of the strong pound, assumed to stay at present levels, on import prices.

Next year's retail price inflation is also helped by lower mortgage rates than those prevailing this year. The underlying fall in inflation as measured by the gross domestic product deflator, declines more gently from a 5 per cent rise in the current financial year to 4.5 per cent next year. Longer term, the Treasury's spending fore-

casts assume that inflation will fall to 3 per cent by 1988/89.

The public spending plans show the planning total rising from £134.2 billion this year to £148.7 billion in 1988/89, a rise of nearly 11 per cent. Excluding the £4.75 billion a year target for asset sales over the next three years, the total rises from £136.7 billion this year, to £153.5 billion in 1988/89, a 12.2 per cent increase.

On both definitions, spending in real terms is targeted to be stable over the next three years. However, excluding asset sales, spending starts from a higher base, with a 0.7 per cent real rise on this year's expected outturn.

The plans show very different provisions for different departments. Defence is limited to a cash rise over the three-year period totalling just 4.3 per cent, whereas social security is planned to increase by 11.4 per cent, and health and personal social services by 14.6 per cent.

This year, the Treasury has allocated its £5 billion reserve between departments, with the main tranches being £1.2 billion from the bigger-than-expected benefits upsurge, £1.1 billion to the Department of Energy for coal strike after-effects and £800 million to the Department of Education and Science.

The reserve for next year has been reduced from £6 billion to £4.5 billion, rising to £6.25 billion in 1987/88 and £8 billion in 1988/89. The reduction in the reserve next year of £1.5 billion and the increase in asset sales of £2.5 billion means that the Treasury conceded £4 billion during the spending round.

The public sector borrowing requirement is expected to be £8 billion this year, up from the Budget-time forecast of £7.1 billion because of oil price weakness and the pound's rise against the dollar. Next year, the PSBR is set at £7.5 billion.



Mr Nigel Lawson in his office with Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Photograph: John Manning).

INCOME TAX ALLOWANCE

Thresholds set to rise but no mention of scope for cuts

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The single person's basic income tax allowance should go up from £2,205 to at least £2,335 in the next budget, and the married allowance from £3,455 to at least £3,655, according to the "ready reckoner" published in the Autumn Statement. Although the Chancellor has this year refrained from publishing his estimate of the scope for tax cuts, he has provided detailed figures of the level and cost of possible changes.

Mr Lawson is obliged by statute to increase income tax allowances, or the thresholds below which people do not pay any tax, in line with inflation during the previous year, unless the Commons agrees otherwise. The Treasury estimates this necessary adjustment to be 5½ per cent, which would require the Chancellor to increase the basic income tax allowances by £120, and the married allowance by £200. For people aged

more than 65, the corresponding figures would be £150 and £240.

If the Chancellor also increased the higher rate thresholds in line with inflation, the starting point for 40 per cent income tax would go up from £16,200 to £17,100. The threshold for 60 per cent tax would rise from £40,200 to £42,600.

If the Chancellor were also to increase the "specific duties" on beer, tobacco spirits and petrol in line with inflation (so as to preserve the real value), the cost of a packet of 20 cigarettes would go up 4½p, beer by at least 1p a pint, whisky by 30p a bottle and petrol by 5p a gallon. Car licences would go up £5.50.

The ready reckoner also includes the cost of making changes in the rates of the main taxes. Just 1p off the basic rate of tax cost £1,200 in a full year, while ever 1 per cent extra increase in income tax three-

sholds cost £215 million. These costs constrain the Chancellor's basic income tax strategy.

Cost of possible tax changes in next budget

	Full-year cost, £m
Raising income tax allowances in line with inflation at 5½%	+1,425
Cutting the basic rate of income tax by 1p	+1,200
Cutting higher rates by 1p	+105
Cutting corporation tax by 1%	+340
Cutting VAT by 1%	+925
Yield from raising all taxes on beer, cigarettes, alcohol and motoring in line with inflation at 5½%	-785

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NATIONAL INSURANCE

Increased rates for higher earners

By Lawrence Lever

Increased contributions for higher earners and their employers will result from the changes in the National Insurance contribution rate bands announced by the Chancellor yesterday. Lower paid employees will be better off as will their employers.

The actual percentage rates for National Insurance contributions will remain unchanged. The Chancellor announced that the lower earnings limit - the point at which national insurance contributions start - will be increased from £35.50 a week to £38. For an employee earning £35.50 a week and not contracted out of the state earnings related scheme this will mean a reduction of £1.77 a week.

At the same time the upper earnings limit is being increased from £265 to £280 a week. A non-contracted out employee earning at least £285 per week will be worse off to the extent of £1.80 a week.

Lower paid employees and their employers also stand to gain from the changes in the rate bands to which reduced contributions rates apply.

The Chancellor also announced that main Class I contribution rates will remain unchanged for the third year running. Those are 9 per cent for employees and 10.45 per cent for employers.

The changes, which will come into effect next April, are seen as part of his policy of stimulating employment through the reduction of national insurance contributions for the lower paid. They broadly follow on from his abolition of the upper earnings contribution limit for employees and the introduction of reduced contribution rates in the March budget.

EDUCATION

£20m a year found for university research

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Spending cuts in schools, colleges and universities are envisaged in the extremely tough expenditure plans for education in 1986/87, but there is a sweetener for the universities. They will receive more than £20 million a year for research and equipment over the next three years.

Although the Government is increasing the amount it proposes to spend on education and science compared with the plans contained in its White Paper of January, by £300 million to £14,320 million, the sum is lower than the amount of money being spent on education and science in the current financial year.

Mr Giles Radice, Opposition spokesman on education, was quick to point out that local authorities would receive £185m less in cash next year than they are getting this year. Allowing for inflation at 4.5 per cent, that meant a cut of around 6 per cent in local authority spending he said.

Local authorities have been allocated £10.815 million, £210m more than the White Paper, but less than estimated amount being spent this year of £11,000 million. The cuts will come from both capital and revenue budgets.

The plans assume cuts in surplus school places in line with the falling birth rate and reductions in teacher numbers. A total of 1,125,000 places is expected to have gone by March, 1987 and 11,000 teachers are being shed between 1985 and 1987.

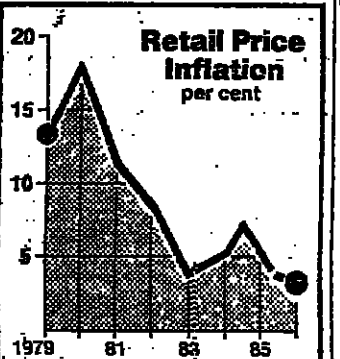
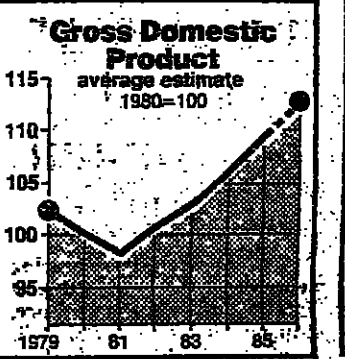
In further education the Government hopes to see a tightening in the staff/student ratio from 8.5 to 1 to 9.5 to 1. Local authorities will be expected to improve efficiency further in their caretaking and cleaning budgets. The plans assume moderate pay settlements - 4.5 per cent this current year and 5 per cent next year. Local authority capital spending is being cut £31.5m this year to £294m next year.

University spending is being cut in real terms by 1.6 per cent next year. Its recurrent grant will be £1342m, although the research equipment grant in selected centres is being raised from £7m to £10m in each of the financial years 1986-89.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has accepted the request from Sir Randolph Quirk, president of the British Academy, to provide money for 25 fellowships in the humanities and social studies over the next three years.

The science budget, which goes to the research councils, is to go up by £15m over the plans in the White Paper, to £614m. Altogether the universities will receive an extra £21m next year and in 1987-88, and an extra £24m in 1988-89.

There will also be more money for student grants, because of increasing student numbers. Next year an extra £25m has been allocated for this purpose, in 1987-88 an extra £23.5m, and in 1988-1989 an extra £21m.



DEFENCE

Inflation to erode spending

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

It is virtually certain that Britain's defence programme will decline during the next three years after the figures released yesterday by the Treasury.

The figures show that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has successfully resisted attempts by the Treasury to cut several hundred million pounds from his budget in each of the next three years.

However, the figures make little allowance for inflation or for the tendency of defence equipment costs to increase more rapidly than those in the economy of the whole.

In 1986/87 defence spending is planned to increase by 2.5 per cent to £18,520 million, but as the Chancellor has forecast that the general rate of inflation will not decline to 3.75 per cent until the end of next year, that means that the increased resources allocated to defence will not be enough even to match inflation.

Already economies are being sought for 1986/87, those could include withdrawing from service two Royal Navy ships earlier than had been planned.

However, the really serious problems seem likely to arise in 1987/88 and 1988/89 when increases in defence spending of only 1.6 per cent and 0.9 per cent are planned.

Mr Heseltine's only hope of maintaining the size and shape of the defence programme, in those years is through is policy of increasing the competitive pressure on suppliers to provide better value for money. It is doubtful, however, whether those economies will be sufficient to offset the strain on the defence budget.

One feature of the projected figures is that the cost of defending the Falkland Islands is expected to decline by two-thirds during the next three years. The cost this year is put at £552 million, but by 1988/89 it is expected to be down to £192 million.

The bulk of this saving on Falklands costs will arise from the completion next year of the Mount Pleasant airfield and its associated accommodation and other facilities. That is expected to make possible substantial cuts in the size of the garrison.

HEALTH SERVICE

NHS allocated 1% spending growth

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities yesterday heaved a sigh of relief as Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced an increase of 6.7 per cent or £650 million in spending on hospital and community health services.

The increase means extra money about £130 million has been found to meet the full cost next year of this year's phased pay awards for nurses and doctors that threatened to lead to widespread cuts in services if the extra cash was not found.

The figures, which will take total spending on the National Health Service in England up by £900 million to more than £15 billion next year, mean health authorities in general can expect to have 1 per cent growth above the expected rate of inflation next year of 4.5 per cent, assuming next year's pay rises for doctors, nurses and other health service staff are held to 4.5 per cent.

The extra money is about enough to meet the increased demands from the growing numbers of elderly. Health authorities should also be able to carry out large investment programmes in hospitals and community services as sales of surplus land, nurses homes and other NHS residential property rise, he said. Land sales alone have reached £50 million a year, against some £15 million a few years ago, and health ministers expect health authorities to raise anything between £100 million and £200 million a year during the next few years from land and building sales.

The Government has also pencilled in a 1 per cent increase in real terms for both 1987-89, allowing health authorities to meet the growing demands for the elderly through the period of the next general election.

Overall NHS spending will increase to £16.5 billion by 1988-89, with spending on family doctor and dental services due to rise by £230 million next year and £200 million in each of the two succeeding years. The increases in family practitioner services are planned to meet forecast demand Mr Fowler said.

TOURISM

Jobless areas boosted

By Derek Harris

An £8 million increase, a rise of a fifth, in funding for the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board signals changes in government strategy to stimulate the number of foreign visitors, in particular but to encourage domestic tourism.

A final distribution of the extra cash has still to be decided as between the BTA, which promotes Britain abroad, and the ETB which channels most directly aid to domestic tourism. But the increase of tourism funding to £40 million next year is aimed especially at helping areas of high unemployment to attract more visitors.

Pensions and other social security benefits are set to rise by only 1 per cent next July as the Government switches the date of the annual uprating of benefits in the run up to its social security reforms.

The annual date for increasing benefits is to be brought forward from November to April by having two upratings eight months apart - one in July next year and the other in April 1987, as the new system comes into effect. But the fall in the rate of inflation from 7 per cent in May to an expected 5.5

HOUSING

Extra £220m to go on renovations

By Colin Hughes

An extra £220 million for councils to spend next year on housing should be concentrated on the renovation of rundown property, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, said last night.

He added that building of new houses "must be a lower priority", restricted to special homes for elderly and disabled people. He added that the real "scandal" in public sector housing is that 112,000 council homes are currently vacant, of which 25,000 have been standing empty for more than a year.

Local authority associations reacted to the increase, less than the £600 million which Mr Baker sought from the Treasury, by saying it would actually mean a real cut in the amount councils expect to spend this year on improving the housing stock.

Housing programme capital was set at £2,280 million this year, rising to £2,530 million next year. The increase brings it up to £2,750 million.

Even if councils were spending at those levels the real increase, taking 5 per cent inflation into account, would be £130 million this year, according to Mr Clive Benn, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' housing committee.

He said: "The autumn statement reveals a real cut of £85 million in housing expenditure for 1986-87 compared with the estimated out-turn for this financial year."

He added: "Kenneth Baker should join the magic circle. He claimed he had squeezed more housing money from the Treasury, but in fact he asked for too little, and has ended up with less than nothing."

The Institute of Housing welcomed the increase, saying "at last the Government has recognized that cuts are not the answer."

It added, however, that an extra £1,000 million was needed



Mr Baker, more for home renovations

He placed strong emphasis on the role of the government's new Urban Housing Renewal Unit, which aims to liaise between local authorities and the private sector in attracting private investment into repair and building programmes.

"In most areas new local authority building for general needs has rightly been reduced to very low levels. These needs can more appropriately be met by the private sector," Mr Baker said.

Provision for local environmental services capital was increased in the public expenditure statement by £39 million, funds for reclamation of derelict land was raised by £5 million, and the urban development corporations will be allowed to retain an extra £11 million of selling off land to plough back.

LEGAL AID

Growth in demand forecast

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Growth in demand for legal aid and the Government's new national scheme for round-the-clock duty solicitors in police stations will boost public spending on legal aid by an estimated £40 million by 1987/88.

The duty solicitor scheme, which starts next year, accounts for an extra £20 million on the Lord Chancellor's budget, and compares with about £2 million now spent annually on legal advice and assistance for people in police stations.

The Lord Chancellor's Department said yesterday that the scheme, which will be among the most developed in the world, is a "major new commitment of resources in getting legal advice to those who need it."

Demand for legal aid is also expected to continue to grow: the present rate is some 8 per cent a year in civil legal aid and about 5 per cent in criminal legal aid. By 1987/88 an extra £40 million is being allowed for.

The department's budget, therefore, is estimated at £540 million for 1985/86, £590 million for 1986/87, £650 million for 1987/88 and £700 million for 1988/89.

FUEL COSTS

No sharp rise in costs for domestic users

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Electricity and gas prices rises due to be announced next April will be kept well within the annual inflation rate, both industries said yesterday after being set new financial targets by the Chancellor.

The electricity supply industry, which has mounted a vociferous campaign against the Government using it as a revenue earner, has been asked to contribute £3,416 million in 1986-87 as well as making a normal operating profit.

A spokesman for the Electricity Council, said last night: "We should be able to cope easily."

British Gas, which is due to move into the private sector half-way through the 1986-87 financial year has been set a target of £400 million in addition to the requirement to make a commercial return. However, the target is described by the Department of Energy as "notional" and British Gas has consistently said that there is no reason why prices should rise by more than the inflation rate.

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LOMBARD HOMEOWNERS' LOAN PLAN

Poll-rigging claim raised Monrovia tension in run-up to coup attempt

From Richard Everett, Abidjan

State founded by freed slaves

Conflicting reports on the situation in Liberia indicate a coup attempt that may not have succeeded.

The Christian Radio Station Elwa, broadcasting from the outskirts of Monrovia, reported yesterday morning that General Thomas Quiwonkpa, an army officer living in exile, had surrounded the capital with "patriotic forces" intent on seizing power from General Samuel Doe, a comrade-in-arms in the 1980 coup.

A taped message played throughout the day and interspersed with martial music said that General Quiwonkpa had come to "liberate the Liberian people from fear, brutality, and tyranny". He called on the armed forces, police, students and workers to support his coup attempt.

He said the country's borders and international airport had been closed and a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed. Anyone caught "rioting or looting would face the full force of the law".

A later broadcast called on the armed forces to arrest any ministers or officials of the Doe government. General Doe, he said, "is in hiding, there is no escape for him". Other reports from the capital indicated that several ministers, including the Justice Minister, Mr Jenkins Scott, Vice-President Harry Monibah, and the Elections Commission chairman, Mr Emmet Harmon, had been detained by General Quiwonkpa's forces.

However, General Doe, who shot his way into the executive mansion with General Quiwonkpa in 1980, ending the civilian regime of President William Tolbert, appeared to maintain control of several battalions, including the State Radio carried a message from General Doe saying that the coup attempt had failed.

The Christian Elwa Radio continued to broadcast messages from the Quiwonkpa forces, calling for support. One message from Vice-President

Liberia was founded in 1847 by freed black slaves from the southern USA. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries it remained a remote West African backwater.

In 1926 the Firestone tyre company began rubber-producing operations there and dominated its economy for half a century. President Tubman, who ruled from 1944 to 1971, is regarded as the father of the nation. He presided over the assimilation and unification of the 16 main tribal groups and introduced social reforms.

His less charismatic successor, President Tolbert continued his policies. But an economic crisis led to his overthrow and assassination in 1980.

Liberia occupies 37,743 square miles between Sierra Leone, Guinea and the Ivory Coast. Its population is two million, its main exports coffee, cocoa, rubber, timber, industrial diamonds and iron ore.

Monibah, expressed surprise at the coup attempt, but asked Liberians to avoid bloodshed. Another announcement called on the soldiers of the First Battalion and the executive mansion guard to lay down their arms or face "invasion", suggesting that General Doe and his troops were surrounded at the building.

General Doe promised to return the country to civilian rule soon after he seized power in 1980, ending 133 years of domination by the ruling True Whig Party. General Doe's erratic and authoritarian rule soon alienated many of the civilians and military who had supported him in the "revolution of April 12".

He also incurred widespread international disapproval by executing on a Monrovia beach 13 leading officials of the former regime.

Numerous officials of General Doe's government and his People's Redemption Council have been arrested, dismissed, and in some cases executed.

However, barely an hour later a Colonel Moses Rice came on the air to say that the First Battalion had seized Elwa and was calling on members of the armed forces to "come out and join us to combat General Quiwonkpa and his crew".

He called on enlisted men to follow the orders of officers loyal to General Doe, in order to "bring our country to a normal situation".

Tension has been high in Monrovia following last month's elections. General Doe claimed victory in polling which was characterized by widespread cheating. Journalists saw soldiers and their families being encouraged to vote for General Doe's National Democratic Party of Liberia, while the three opposition parties claimed they had won in most constituencies.

All three parties denounced the election results as fraudulent, saying ballot boxes had been tampered with and that many votes had been burned during the two-week counting period.

The Liberia Action Party, the Unity Party and the Liberia Unification Party said they dispute the election results and would not take the handful of seats allocated to them in the new legislature.

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General Doe, whose erratic and authoritarian rule alienated many of his civilian and military supporters.

General Quiwonkpa fled the country in 1983 after being accused of plotting against the Doe regime.

General Doe has come under increasing pressure from the United States, Liberia's largest trading partner, to make the transition to civilian rule. Last year he lifted a ban on political activity, and almost a dozen groups threw their hats into the ring for this year's elections.

The two most popular candidates, Professor Amos Sawyer,

of the Liberia People's Party, and Mr Gabriel Bacchus Matthews, of the United People's Party, were both banned from taking part, however.

Only four parties, including that of General Doe, made it over the financial and legal hurdles to fight the elections. Liberians looked forward to voting for a civilian government.

However, there was widespread pessimism that the elections would be rigged.

Messner sacks nine ministers in Warsaw shake-up

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The new Polish Premier, Professor Zbigniew Messner, yesterday sacked nine ministers and made another four redundant in a major government shake-up designed to strengthen the country's economic and foreign policies.

The move, announced in parliament, dovetails with changes in the Communist Party hierarchy, some of which were disclosed on Monday night after a session of the central committee.

The purge bears the hallmark of General Jaruzelski, the former premier and current Communist Party chief, who has long waited to streamline government management of the economy and to co-ordinate more effectively the activities of economic, foreign affairs and foreign trade planners.

The principal victims of the reshuffle are Mr Janusz Obozowski, a deputy premier in charge of planning, and Mr Stefan Olszowski, the Foreign Minister. Mr Olszowski resigned from the Politburo for "personal reasons" on Monday and his move from the Foreign Ministry was widely expected.

The new Foreign Minister is Mr Marian Orzechowski, aged 54, a former professor of history, who is a deputy member of the Politburo.

He has no diplomatic experience but has demonstrated his loyalty to General Jaruzelski by taking over the politically unrewarding job of general-secretary of the Patriotic Movement for National Revival, an officially-sponsored body that tries to promote dialogue between communists and non-communists.

The other ministers to lose their jobs include the Building Minister, the Domestic and Foreign Trade Ministers, the Education Minister, Health and Marine Ministers and the head of the Office for Youth Affairs.

Ministerial mergers also mean that some long-serving ministers have to go: the Prices Ministry, for example, has been subsumed into the Finance Ministry, and the Prices Minister, Mr Zdzislaw Krasinski, has therefore lost his job.

The Economic Reform Ministry has been scrapped — though Mr Messner stressed in his Government address that he was committed to decentralizing the economy and the former minister, Mr Wladyslaw Baka, has been appointed head of the National Bank.

The new ministers are: Marian Orzechowski (Foreign), Zbigniew Gertch (Deputy Premier), Wladyslaw Gwiazda (Deputy Premier), Jozef Koziol (Deputy Premier), Jozef Niewiadomski (Building), Jerzy Jozwiak (Domestic Trade), Adam Nowotnik (Marine Economy), Joanna Michalowska-Gumowska (Education), Aleksander Kwasniewski (head of the Office for Youth), Andrzej Wojcik (Foreign Trade), Miroslaw Cybulka (Health).

● VIENNA: Romania's Foreign Minister, Mr Stefan Andrei, is the latest politician to fall victim to President Ceausescu's increasingly frequent ministerial reshuffles (Richard Bassett writes).

A terse statement by the Romanian news agency on Sunday said that he had been given "other duties". He is replaced by Mr Ilie Vaduva, who is in his thirties.

US Navy spy goes to prison for life

Norfolk, Virginia (AP) —

Retired Navy Lieutenant Commander Arthur Walker was sentenced to life imprisonment for seven convictions of espionage stemming from a family-based Soviet spy ring. He was also fined \$250,000 (\$178,000).

"I can't treat this as a slap on the wrist case — the evidence is all to the contrary," said US District Judge J. Calvitt Clarke before he imposed the maximum sentence of three life terms plus 40 years, all to run concurrently.

Walker, aged 51, was convicted in August of passing classified defence documents to his younger brother, John, a retired Navy communications specialist.

High-tech China

Tokyo (Reuters) — Cocom, the Western body which restricts strategic exports to communist nations, will soon ease restrictions for China, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said. But he would not say whether the items would include computers and advanced machine tools.

Playing on

Frankfurt (AP) — The West German cities of VLM, Bochum and Cologne and Milan in Italy are interested in staging the Rainer Werner Fassbinder play cancelled by the state theatre here after Jewish groups denounced it as anti-Semitic.

Prince punished

Copenhagen (Reuters) — Prince Joachim of Denmark, 16-year-old son of Queen Margrethe and Prince Henrik, has been suspended from school for one week with seven others after rowdy pupils forced a school play to be abandoned the *Bertelske Tidende* reported.

Girl ransomed

Catanzaro, Italy (AP) — A 16-year-old girl, dragged from her home by four kidnappers 11 months ago has been freed after payment of an 800 million lire (£290,000) ransom.

Rock star ill

Memphis, Tennessee (AP) — Rock 'n' Roll singer Jerry Lee Lewis, aged 50, reported suffering from a bleeding stomach ulcer, is to undergo surgery at the Methodist Hospital here.

Santiago attack

Santiago (Reuters) — Gunmen opened fire on Chilean police guarding the homes of senior officers, killing one policeman and wounding another.

Killer elephants

Gauhati, India (AFP) — Wild elephants, restless because tree-felling has left them short of food, have killed at least 12 people in the past week in the Holuagar reserve forest in upper Assam, police said.

Blocked line

Stockholm — Sweden's Conservative Party leader, Mr Ulf Adelsohn, who has been threatened with prosecution for illegally importing a cordless telephone from Hong Kong, told customs officers he did not realize it was illegal. The law banning such phones was passed and signed by Mr Adelsohn, Communications Minister at the time.

Euro-MPs poised for budget battle

From Richard Owen, Strasbourg

As it pushes for greater power in the EEC, the European Parliament is set for a head-on collision with the Council of Ministers over the annual budget, with the Parliament adding over £1 billion to 1986 expenditure to take account of the cost of full membership for Spain and Portugal and a backlog of past financial commitments.

The dispute coincides with the battle over the future powers of the Parliament, with MEPs demanding a far greater say. Theoretically, the Parliament can add only a "maximum rate" to the budget, this year amounting to £134 million.

The issue of EEC democracy and reform is to be decided by the next EEC summit in Luxembourg in two weeks.

At present, the Parliament feels frustrated, since it has little real power, except for a say in "non-obligatory expenditure", which amounts to about a third of the budget. This refers to spending in areas other than agriculture.

The Commission had proposed a 1986 budget of £21.73

billion, but this was cut back by the Council of Ministers to £19.7 billion. The Parliament's changes, which are certain to be approved in a vote tomorrow, would boost the spending limits to £20.83 billion.

M Jean-Claude Juncker, head of the Budget Council, warned the Parliament of the irresponsibility of the additional spending, saying member governments could not accept it. Six Hundred amendments, weighing 4½%, have been tabled.

Mrs Barbara Castle of the British Labour group called for a reform of agricultural spending. The Labour group as a whole put down an amendment rejecting the budget altogether, on the grounds that 70 per cent of it was devoted to propping up the common agricultural policy.

But most MEPs supported the Parliament's draft budget, saying it was the Council of Ministers in Brussels that was irresponsible, and that it was up to Strasbourg to put matters right. They said the council's alleged commitment to budget discipline was proving a farce.

UK agents 'aided flight of defector'

Oslo (Reuters) — British secret agents smuggled the KGB defector, Mr Oleg Gordievsky, out of the Soviet Union days after he acted as top adviser during Mr Gorbachev's visit to Britain last year, Western intelligence sources said yesterday.

They said that the defection took place because Mr Gordievsky had become aware that he was suspected of working for London, and of betraying a Norwegian KGB spy to the West.

British television reported on Monday that British agents had smuggled Mr Gordievsky out of the Soviet Union because he was suspected of betraying the Norwegian diplomat, Mr Arne Treholt, who was arrested in 1983 and jailed this year for 20 years as a spy.

The sources confirmed the report but refused to say how Mr Gordievsky had been taken out of the Soviet Union. Britain ordered a crackdown on information about the incident after the television broadcast, they added.

Women shot dead by South African police

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

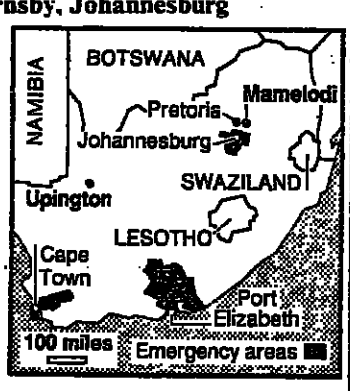
Two women have been killed in clashes between South African police and residents of black townships, police reported yesterday. There have been more than 850 deaths in townships over the last 14 months, slightly more than half of them the result of police action.

In Mamelodi, near Pretoria, "a policeman's home was attacked by a mob of blacks. The policeman dispersed the attackers with revolver fire, fatally wounding a woman," a police bulletin said.

The other woman died in a township near Uptington, in northern Cape Province, "when police fired on petrol bombers who attacked their vehicle." The police account is the only version of both incidents.

Pretoria and Uptington are not among the 38 magisterial districts under a state of emergency. Mamelodi has been tense since the weekend, when funerals were held for three schoolchildren shot by police.

Stoning of police vehicles was reported from Uptington on



Monday and police said they made 10 arrests.

● WELLINGTON: New Zealand announced the imposition of sanctions against South Africa in accordance with last month's Commonwealth agreement (AFP reports).

The Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr David Lange, announced a ban on the import of kruggerands and of South African arms, ammunition and military vehicles, as well as on the sale and re-export of computer equipment to the Republic.

Summit security build-up

Geneva (AFP) — About 3,500 Swiss police, gendarmes and soldiers, apart from agents from the superpowers, will guard the Reagan-Gorbachev summit here next week. This is more than three times the canton's normal security force.

The canton, which like other local units in Switzerland has wide powers, has called in reinforcements from all over the country, including about 450 police and 15 light tanks, in a \$1 million (£690,000) operation.

● NEW YORK: Two border

patrol agents face possible disciplinary action for forcibly returning a Soviet seaman, Mikhail Medvedev, to his ship after he jumped into the Mississippi River, a US official was quoted as saying (Reuters reports).

The commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Mr Alan Nelson, told *The New York Times* that the agency had submitted a report to the Justice Department spelling out the mistakes of the two unidentified agents.

Bonn marks 30 years of its post-war army

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

The thirtieth anniversary was observed here yesterday of the Federal Republic of Germany's first German institution, apart from the Nazi Party, that most of the world had agreed would never be allowed again.

President Richard von Weizsäcker of West Germany, Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, German politicians, ambassadors and other dignitaries were to attend a ceremony last night to mark 30 years of the Bundeswehr, the West German Army.

It was the East-West conflict that frustrated the world's predictions of a rearmaged Germany. But East Germany did so before West Germany. By the spring of 1948 its "border forces" had been allowed by the Soviet Union to expand far more than was needed to deal with any existing threat to its borders.

But it was the Paris agreement of December 1954, admitting the Federal Republic to Nato and allowing it to raise a "contingent force" of 500,000 that aroused most protest. The opponents of German rearmament included French right-wingers and British left-wingers, Aneurin Bevan as well as Lord Beaverbrook.

The French right long ago abandoned its objection to West German arms and in Bonn yesterday it seemed that the international left has also given up on German militarism as a rallying cry. The only "left" which seemed to be doing much about the anniversary was the indigenous West German one.

Demonstrations, including a torchlit procession to the Ministry of Defence, were planned. More police than usual were visible all day in Bonn, standing in twos and threes at road junctions.

A left-wing grouping, the anti-Fascist Federation and Association of War Victims, called the anniversary celebrations a "reactionary festivity" and "reminiscent of the old days."

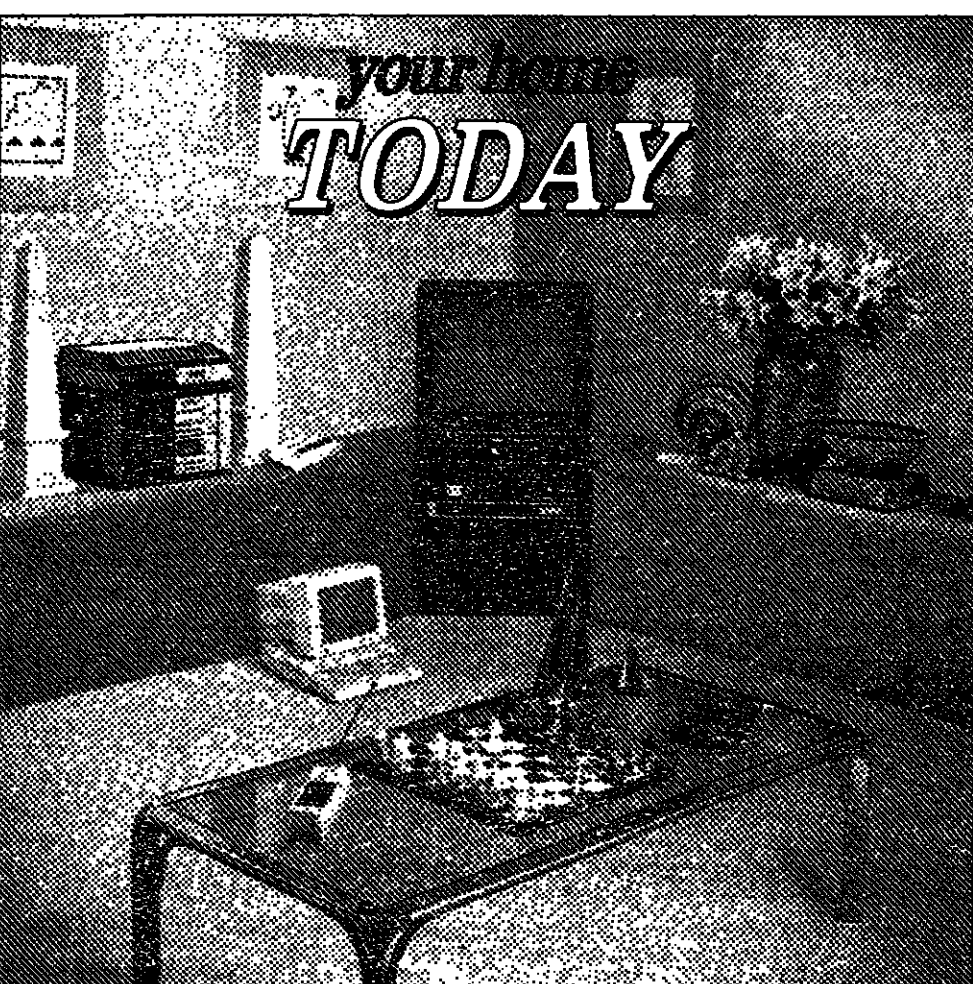
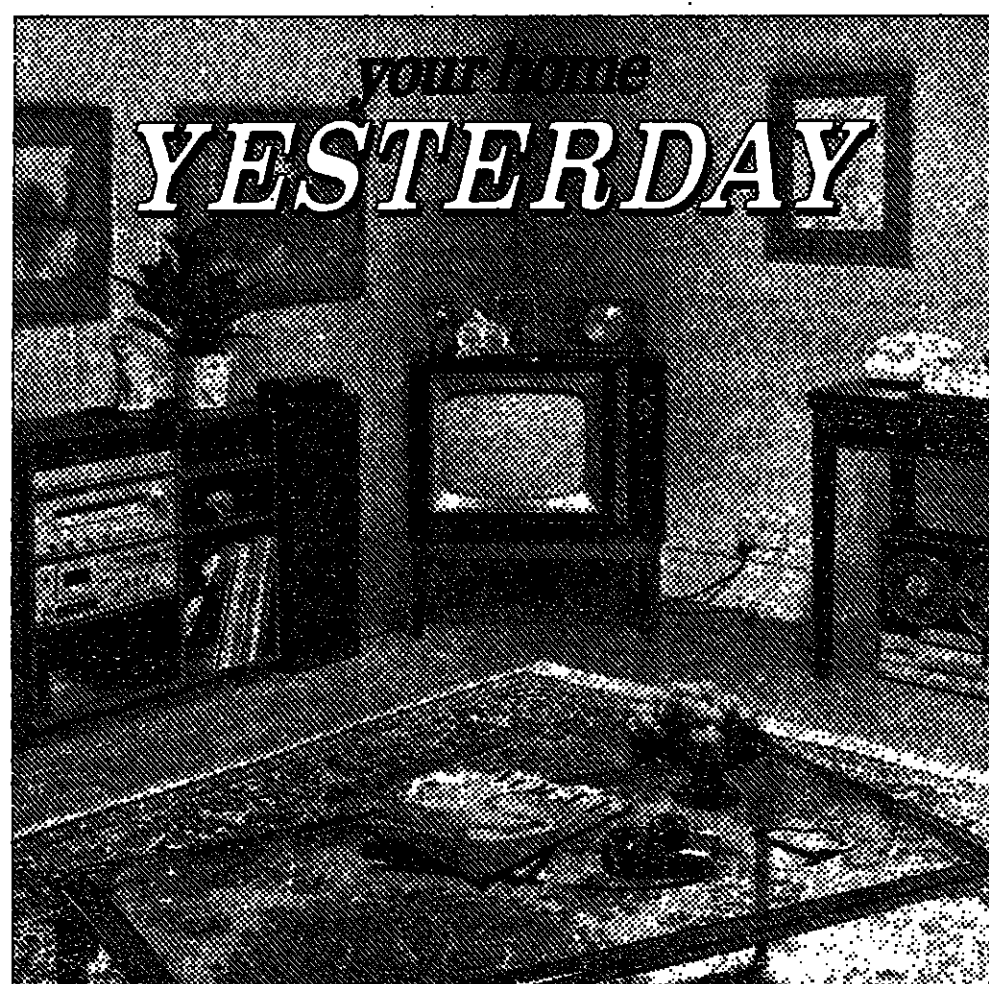
Earlier there had been a court ruling which might be interpreted as meaning that a German army is not incompatible with liberal institutions. Magistrates decided that a peaceful protest, due for last night, could take place nearer the barracks than the Bonn police had wanted. The court also overruled a police objection to the protesters' carrying flaming torches.

Another Aids death

Paris — Grenoble Hospital confirmed yesterday that another patient suffering from Aids and being treated with the drug zalcitabine, had died (Susan Macdonald writes). The hospital said: "It was a last chance experiment."

The patient, aged 27, was in a

critical state and other treatments had failed. His death on Saturday brings to three the number of Aids patients who have died while undergoing the experimental zalcitabine drug treatment in an effort to halt the disease.



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Beirut bomber strikes during monastery meeting

Blast injures Christian leaders

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

A suicide bomber exploded a small truck loaded with explosives outside a monastery where Christian politicians opposed to a Syrian-sponsored accord to end the Lebanese civil war were meeting yesterday.

Police said that five senior Christian politicians, including the former president, M. Camille Chamoun, aged 85, were wounded in the attack on the leadership of the Lebanese Front coalition.

The driver, described as a middle-aged man, was killed with a woman and two Lebanese soldiers who tried to stop him driving towards the one-storey stone building of the St George Monastery. Twelve

other people, including bodyguards, were wounded.

The bombing came after Muslim militia leaders who negotiated the accord to end the Lebanese civil war accused Christian "traditionalists" of undermining a draft peace treaty negotiated in Damascus. Leaders of the Lebanese Front have criticized the accord, saying it makes too many concessions to the Muslims.

The century-old monastery, in the east Beirut suburb of Aukar, is the headquarters of the Lebanese Front, the political leadership of a coalition of Christian militias now divided over the Syrian-sponsored peace plan.

The life of the Lebanese Front leader was saved by the thick stone walls of the small meeting room. Shards of glass from two large windows showered the politicians, but no one was seriously injured.

An anonymous caller claiming to speak for an unknown group calling itself the "Vanguard of Arab Christians" claimed responsibility for the attack. He accused the Lebanese Front leaders of trying to align Lebanon's Christian community with Israel and said of the bombing: "This is the end of everyone who is in Israel's lap."

Police said that in addition to Mr Chamoun, his son Dany, aged 51, leader of the National Liberal Party, and Mr Elie Karameh, leader of President Gemayel's right-wing Phalange Party, were wounded.

The Chamouns and Mr Karameh have been particularly critical of the Lebanese Forces, the Christians' main militia, which reached accord on the draft peace treaty with its two strongest rivals, the Shia Muslim Amal militia and the Druze Progressive Socialist Party.

The draft included political reforms under which the powers of the Christian president would be reduced while ending the Christians' domination of Government, the judiciary and the army.



Rescue workers carrying an injured woman to safety after she was trapped in debris from the explosion.

Diplomatic tempo rises in Middle East peace drive

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Tom Bradley, the Mayor of Los Angeles, leaves here this morning for Amman with a special message for King Hussein of Jordan from Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister of Israel.

The Jordanian Prime Minister, Mr Zaid Rifai, is meanwhile on a two-day visit to Damascus, the first such visit since 1979, and the new American special Middle East representative, Mr Walter Calverius, spent yesterday in Cairo finding out all the could about the visit there by Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

All these comings and goings are part of an unusually intensive diplomatic effort in the days before the Geneva summit meeting to draw up a new blueprint for peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Despite the state of war that officially still exists between Israel and Jordan, it is clear that there are increasing contacts between Mr Peres and the King, after speeches a month ago in New York in which both spoke guardedly of opening direct negotiations.

Mr Peres, having been firmly against any wide international involvement in the peace process only a month ago, now talks freely of accepting such a "companion" to negotiations.

King Hussein, having insisted in Luxembourg only 10 days ago that the PLO must be involved, has now said that Mr Arafat has not gone far enough in declaring an end to terrorism. At the same time, the King is doing his best to repair relations with Syria. Since Syria is also a declared enemy of Mr Arafat's PLO, he is engaged in a difficult balancing act of showing Mr Arafat he is not a puppet while defending the PLO's right to be involved in what is going on.

Egypt also now seems to realize that it cannot simply throw away the Camp David agreement to win its way back into Arab esteem. It has signalled that it wants to be involved in whatever is going on between Israel and Jordan.

The Egyptian chargé d'affaires in Israel, Mr Muhammad Bassiouni, had a long private meeting with Mr Peres on Monday to try to improve relations. They agreed to another round of talks in Cairo about the disputed border area of Taba on the Red Sea.

The key to this intricate deadlock could be found in Geneva. If the Soviet Union makes some gesture towards normalizing relations with Israel, Mr Peres would feel able to agree to the kind of international framework that King Hussein needs before making direct contact.

The King would then find the strength to tell Mr Arafat that he could join in talks only if he recognized Israel's right to exist inside secure borders without fear of terrorist attacks.

Waite flies out in bid to free US hostages

By a Staff Reporter

A rescue mission intended to free four American hostages held by Lebanese terrorists is to be undertaken by Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal troubleshooter.

He will fly to Beirut this morning after having established contact with the captors during the past three days.

A spokesman for the Archbishop said yesterday: "Mr Waite has received a message from the group which encourages him to believe that a visit to Beirut will be worthwhile."

The move comes after a direct appeal to the Archbishop

for help from the four Americans, who include a Roman Catholic priest and a journalist, received on Friday through a news agency in Beirut.

Mr Waite, the Archbishop's Secretary for Anglican Communion Affairs, has appealed to the media for minimum publicity while he is in Beirut because of the "extreme sensitivity and dangerous nature of the situation".

Church authorities emphasize that his main task will be to negotiate with the group holding the four Americans and not with the captors of seven other Western hostages in the Lebanon: four Frenchmen, two other Americans and a Briton Mr

Alec Collett, who was working with the UN Relief and Works Agency when he was kidnapped in February.

The Archbishop's office commented: "It is not absolutely certain where Mr Collett is at the moment. Mr Waite is specifically concerned at present with the four Americans."

It is not clear what group is holding the Americans, who have been named as Father Lawrence Jenco, Associated Press reporter Mr Terry Anderson, Mr David Jacobson and Mr Thomas Sutherland.

They are being held in retaliation for the imprisonment of 17 Arabs for bombing the American and French

embassies in Kuwait in 1983.

Mr Waite, aged 45, has already played a part in securing the release in September of the Rev Benjamin Weir, an American Presbyterian minister captured in the Lebanon.

It was the latest success for the quiet diplomacy practised by Mr Waite. Previously, he had secured the release from Iran of British missionaries and had negotiated with Colonel Gaddafi to gain freedom for British prisoners in Libya.

He has described his latest negotiations with Lebanese groups, some believed to be connected with Islamic Jihad (Holy War) as the most difficult he has undertaken.

Tension fuels arms race

Neighbours' threats force faster pace

In the second of two articles on Israeli defence expenditure, IAN MURRAY in Jerusalem examines the difficulties in attempting to prune the military budget when the Arab states are engaged in an increasingly expensive arms race.

Proud of its quality and equipment, sure of its motivation, Israel has in the past calculated that it ought to be able to win any war against Arab countries, provided the numerical odds are no worse than three to one against it. This confidence derives, perhaps, from the story of David and Goliath, endorsed by Israel's crushing victory in the Six Day War.

Uncertainty set in with the near defeat of the Yom Kippur War and has been heightened by the Lebanese experience. Now, as Arab armies equip themselves with the world's most sophisticated weapons, Israel is having to cut its training programmes and reduce its arms procurement as part of the effort to control the inflation-fired economy.



Since the Yom Kippur War in 1973, the bordering Arab states have spent some \$86 billion on modern weapons and they are buying at an accelerating pace. In 1972 they were spending \$2.73 for every dollar spent by Israel. Ten years later the ratio had gone up to 7.53 to one.

Quantitatively the odds are now overwhelming. Israel's 640 warplanes have to face a total of 2,260. The combined tank army of the Arab nations numbers 15,000 to Israel's 3,650. Israeli artillery is outnumbered by 12,000 to 1,000.

Qualitatively, too, the gap is closing. The modern aircraft and armour now in service with the Arab countries requires less skill to maintain and operate effectively. This nullifies much of the benefit Israel has derived in the past from tougher, better training methods.

And now that training is itself having to be cut back significantly to save money.

Technology helps. For example the Armoured Corps has three new training bases in the Negev desert, where computers and simulators are used to save engine wear and the cost of ammunition.

But commanders are complaining that the cuts in real training are making it more and more difficult to keep the reserves fighting fit - and Israel badly needs its reserves to be well trained. Its 142,000-strong standing Army, according to the Institute of Strategic Studies, is now faced by a Syrian Army which has grown from 220,000 to 402,000 in two years. Iraq has trebled its Army during the Gulf War and now has 38 divisions with battle experience.

Overall Israel, with all its reserves, can put up no more than half a million fighting men, against a potential Arab army of 3.5 million. Keeping the Israeli Army and reserves at present levels of readiness is swallowing up more and more of the available budget.

"We have to admit that the cuts mean a lower level of security," they say at the Ministry of Defence. "We are quite sure that we are still strong enough, but we are increasing the risk."

Whether that means that Israel is bound to be more flexible in any peace negotiations is questionable. The doves argue that since it must be difficult to win it must be prevented through negotiations. The hawks contend that since a war will be difficult to win a pre-emptive strike against any threat is the best way of ensuring that a war never starts.

Meanwhile Israel has every interest in working behind the scenes to prevent Muslim unity. The longer the Gulf War goes on, the less likely Iran and Iraq are to want to fight Israel. The near-anarchy in Lebanon, the uneasy relations between Syria and Jordan, Egyptian isolation and the Polisario activities in the Western Sahara all ease the pressures on Israel and reduce the risk of war.

Concluded

Cairo TV presents Libya raid in James Bond style

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

The state-owned television company staged some entertainment in James Bond style on Monday when it broadcast video tapes of the activities of five Libyan agents allegedly sent to Egypt to assassinate two Libyan exiles and opponents of Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

The 45-minute video gave step-by-step movements of the men preparing an attack on the former Libyan Prime Minister, Dr Abdel Hamid Bakouh, and Mr Mohamed Mogarief.

According to the Interior Ministry, one of the five would-

be assassins was an Egyptian informer, hence the video tapes. Mr Ahmed Rushdy, the Interior Minister, said that the men were promised \$22.5 million (£15.5 million) if they killed Dr Bakouh and Mr Mogarief, although the latter was not at the villa outside Alexandria when the gunmen attacked.

● TRIPOLI: Libya yesterday claimed Dr Bakouh was still co-operating with Libyan security services (AP reports). But Dr Bakouh in Cairo said that the claim was "unbelievable".

Contadora plan rejected

Managua (AP) - The Sandinista government has rejected the latest Contadora peace plan for Central America, saying that its failure to prohibit US military manoeuvres in the region would pose a threat to Nicaragua.

President Ortega's announcement on Monday was the first official reaction to the new plan from a Central American government.

He said that any treaty should include "a new protocol directed solely at the government of the US", requiring Washington to "cease its aggression in all forms against Nicaragua".

The Contadora nations - Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia - have been trying since January 1983 to negotiate a treaty among Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.

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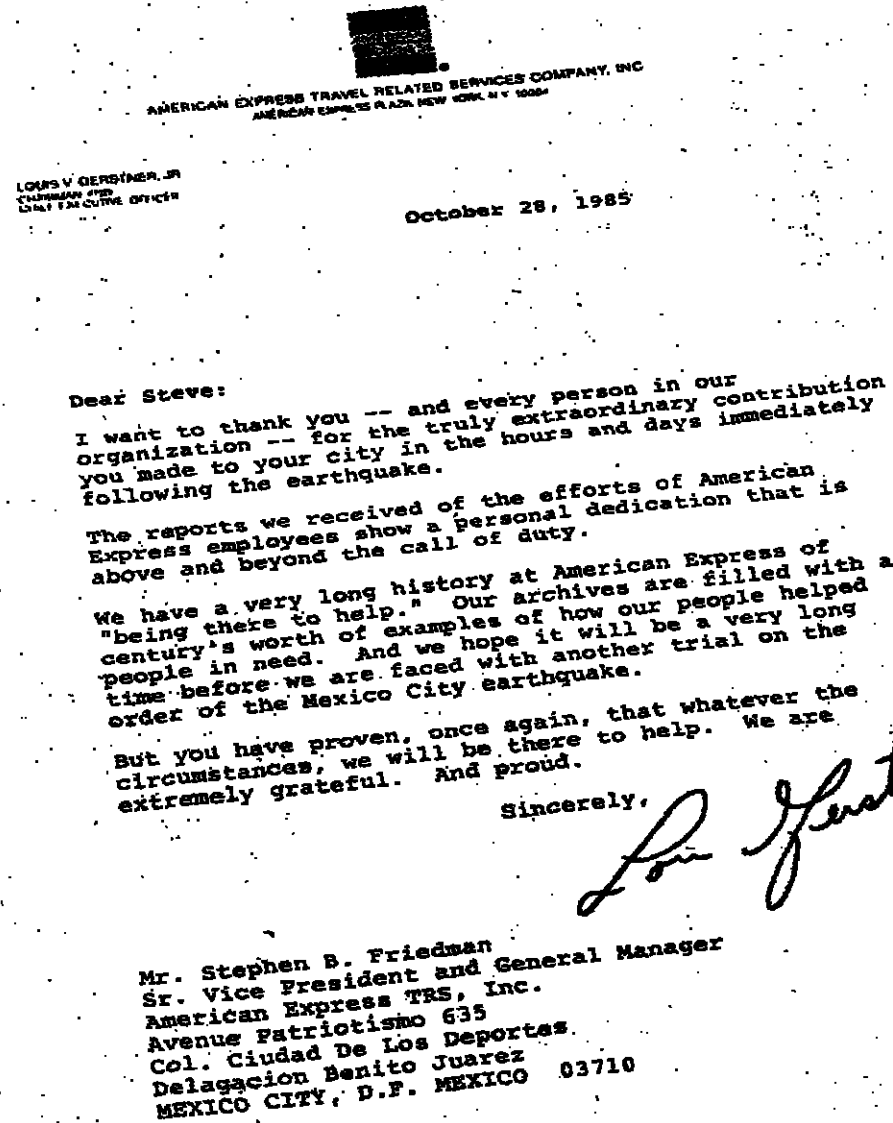
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Muzorewa resignation hastens decline of opposition in Zimbabwe

From Jan Raath, Harare

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the former prime minister of Zimbabwe and head of the once-dominant United African National Council, is to withdraw from politics to concentrate on his religious affairs. His resignation is another nail in the coffin of political opposition in Zimbabwe. The party failed to win any parliamentary seats in the July election, while Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zanu Party is seeking what is seen as incorporation in the ruling party, Zanu (PF), and the Rev Ndabani Sibiwe's Zanu Party, with one MP, has become dormant.

The Herald, Zimbabwe's leading daily newspaper, yesterday quoted "reliable sources" as saying that the Bishop had announced his resignation in a letter to his two party vice-presidents.

Mr Edward Mazaiwana, the

party secretary-general, confirmed the report, but added that there was "much more to it than that". Another letter had been sent to Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

The Bishop is at the Scarritt Theological College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he has been on study leave since early July.

The Herald said that the Bishop's letter told the party that after its dismal failure in the election, it was no longer in a position to influence political events.

He is said to have advised the vice-presidents to call for a central committee meeting to consider either electing a new leader or dissolving the party.

Mr Mazaiwana said that attempts to get the two to convene a meeting had met with "no positive response". The party is believed to have

lost more of its central committee in defections to Zanu (PF), prompted by a wave of violence against the lesser parties immediately after the election.

The Bishop's leadership of the United Methodist Church also appears to be in jeopardy. The Rev John Munjoma, his administrative assistant, said that the study leave ended last month, but that the Bishop had since asked the Church for sabbatical leave, which would allow him to stay in Nashville for another eight months.

Mr Munjoma was quoted by the national news agency as saying that the church hierarchy was to meet next month to discuss "the leadership problem". Sources were quoted as saying that the Bishop faced the possibility of losing his authority "because he cannot lead the church from America."

Increase claimed in Harare torture

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

There has been a sharp increase in arrests and torture of suspected government opponents in Zimbabwe since the July general election, according to a report by Amnesty International.

It says there have been persistent accounts of torture, which included beatings and electric shocks. Prisoners also

had their heads tied in bags of water, forcing them to hold their breath until they lost consciousness.

Most of the torture and intimidation has been in Matabeleland, particularly in the provinces of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu) party.

The report says that at least

150 people have been arrested since the July election, including MPs, city officials and Zapu supporters.

The main torture centre is reported to be Stop Camp, part of Marikazi police station, in central Bulawayo. The methods of torture are similar to those used under the former Rhodesian government.



Gary Kasparov (left) during a friendly match against a journalists' team in Moscow. He scored a hat-trick.

Kasparov out of Soviet chess squad

Lucerne (AP) - An eight-man Soviet squad at this month's chess team world championships will include the former chess world champion, Anatoly Karpov, but not Gary Kasparov, who took the title from him, organizers said yesterday.

A spokesman, Mr Ottavio Bova, said that the Soviet Chess Federation gave no explanation for its selection.

Kasparov, aged 22, and Karpov, aged 34, may not have wanted to play together so soon after their title match in Moscow, he said.

The Soviet federation in September announced a list of 10 players, including both world title contenders, from which eight would be chosen.

MOSCOW: Kasparov yesterday called for the championship rules to be changed by a council of grandmasters and renewed his criticism of the head of the International Chess Federation (Fide), Mr Florencio Campomanes (Reuters reports).

In an interview two days after taking the title, he stressed his discontent with the rules that could require a revenge match within months.

"The matter must be discussed between grandmasters; we need a union of grandmasters from East and West," he said. "It is impossible for one man to solve all these problems. I am now the chess king, but I want democracy."

Manila opposition to challenge Marcos 'manoeuvre'

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Philippine opposition leaders say they will challenge in a parliamentary committee hearing today a resignation letter sent by President Marcos to the National Assembly on Monday as a legal manoeuvre to force an early presidential poll.

The letter, post-dated to take effect only after the planned January 17 election, is designed to allow Mr Marcos to stand for election 15 months ahead of schedule without leaving office unless he loses.

His carefully-worded letter is designed to skirt a constitutional provision that the office of president must be vacant at an election due to resignation, death, incapacitation or removal from office.

Opposition leaders say that because he will not leave office until after the election, and then only if he loses, an early election is illegal because the presidency is not vacant.

But while demanding that he either resign or call off the planned poll, opposition and Government negotiators have been meeting secretly to work out the mechanics of the election which many observers believe may be postponed until March 17.

A verdict has been reached in the trial of the armed forces chief, General Fabian Ver, and 25 others in connection with the 1983 murder of the opposition leader, Benigno Aquino. Court officials yesterday said the accused would appear before a special court on November 20.

Presentation of the verdict could be delayed by a petition filed on Monday evening with the Supreme Court accusing the judges and prosecutors of "grave abuse of discretion" and demanding a "retrial before an impartial tribunal by an unbiased prosecutor".

Attempt to reopen dingo murder case rejected

Sydney - An attempt to have the authorities reopen Australia's most celebrated murder case, involving a mother who claimed that her baby had been seized by a wild dog, has been rejected (Stephen Taylor writes).

The Northern Territory Government said yesterday it had found no grounds for sup-

porting a further inquiry into the conviction of Mrs Lindy Chamberlain for the murder of her daughter Azaria, aged two months, in 1980. All appeal avenues are now exhausted.

Mr Marshall Perron, the territory's Attorney-General, said that new evidence was either irrelevant or unconvincing.

Tough right-winger to lead Mormons

A former US Agriculture Secretary, Mr Ezra Taft Benson, has been named leader of the Mormon church (Iver Peterson, of The New York Times, writes).

Leading authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, as the Mormons are formally known, met in Salt Lake City on Sunday to choose a successor to Spencer Kimball, who died last Tuesday at the age of 90.

Mr Benson was born in Whitney, Idaho, on August 4, 1899. His great-grandfather was a pioneer of the church who had come west with Brigham Young to the valley of the Great Salt Lake in 1847. He is married to Flora Smith

Amussen, and they have six children, 34 grand-children and six great-grandchildren.

Mr Benson was educated at Brigham Young University and Iowa State College, where he concentrated on post-graduate study in farm economics.

In the 1930s, he helped to organize the Idaho Co-operative council and, towards the end of the decade, was elected executive secretary of the National Council of Farmers' Co-operatives.

World War Two found him a member of an agricultural advisory board to President Roosevelt, whom his church had openly but unofficially opposed in the 1932 election.

He stepped into the national spotlight in 1953, as secretary of Agriculture to President Eisenhower, the first Mormon official to sit in a presidential cabinet in a hundred years.

He fought hard to restrain demands for aid to farmers. In a debate that is continuing today, he argued that the Government should reward efficiency and not spend to preserve inefficient farmers.

Upon leaving the Eisenhower administration in 1968, Benson took up church duties full-time. His aggressively conservative views continued to attract attention, and his attacks on the civil rights movement, on détente with Moscow and on the women's movement occasionally embarrassed the church.



Mr Benson: member of Eisenhower's Cabinet.

Spain fights dictionary sex bias

From Richard Wigg Madrid

The Spanish Parliament, on the votes of ruling Socialist MPs, has asked the Royal Academy of the language to remove sex discrimination from its famous dictionary.

Parliament suggested that 12 months should be enough for the lexicographers, members of the academy who meet once a week to debate the contents of what is virtually the official dictionary of the Castilian language, to suppress expressions out of line with the 1978 democratic Constitution requiring equality between the sexes.

Señora Maria Dolores Pelayo, a Government MP, complained that the latest edition, published last year, has references such as "lost woman", "public woman" or "prostitute" in its definition of "woman".

Under "man", however, the references are to "good man", "man of learning" or "statesman".

The right-wing opposition, which was outvoted argued that Parliament had no right to interfere with the works of the learned academy, which was founded in the 18th century.

Holiday air control strike looms

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Air-traffic controllers for Madrid and the Canary Islands are to begin a two-day strike today barring a last-minute settlement, which looked unlikely.

The action is intended to be the first stage in a long dispute with the Spanish civil aviation authorities. The controllers are threatening to extend the strike to the whole country on Monday and Tuesday.

There will be minimum services in Madrid and Las Palmas, the civil aviation authority said, but delays on flights in and out were expected.

The Government said it would guarantee 65 per cent of the regular charter flights to Spain. At this time of year the Canaries are a main tourist destination.

Yesterday the two sides were far apart, with the traffic controllers' association saying that the Government had broken promises to improve equipment at airports. It also complained of a progressive decline in pay received for aircraft handled. The controllers are said to be asking for pay increases of between 40 and 60 per cent.

Athens red tape delays Bulgarians' appeal

Athens - Bureaucracy is delaying the Supreme Court hearing of an appeal by three ethnic Turks against a Greek court decision to extradite them to Bulgaria whence they fled because of persecution (Mario Modiano writes).

Mr Antonis Drosopoulos, the defence lawyer assigned by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said that the appeal should

have been heard by Friday, that is, within eight days of the original ruling. The court's secretary had said the delay was due to some difficulty in reproducing copies of the original decision.

The refugees fled from Bulgaria with their wives and children and sought political asylum. Bulgaria asked for their extradition.

"My son, the banker."



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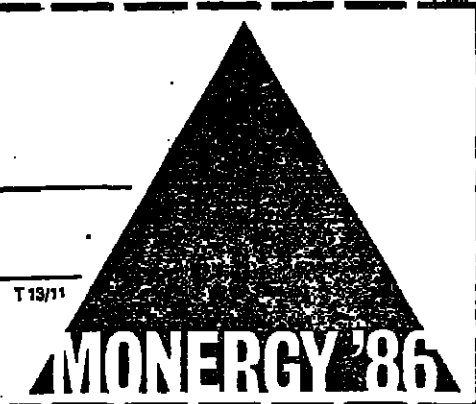
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THE ARTS

The 29th London Film Festival opens at the NFT tomorrow: David Robinson's guide through some of the 160 films

The first piece of advice is never to panic about not getting into the score of star shows that sell out every year within the first hour of booking. The very fact of their popularity is a sure sign that the films are already destined to early commercial release. Several predictable sell-outs are to have London commercial openings within a fortnight of the festival, these include for instance Istvan Szabo's *Colonel Redl*, Penelope Spheeris's *The Boys Next Door*, the Cannes Grand Prix winner Emir Kusturica's *When Father Was Away on Business*, and Peter Greenaway's *Zed and Two Nothings*.

Except for those who find a particular thrill in queuing for returns and paying slightly over West End prices for a standing-room-only first British showing, there is likewise no reason to battle for places for the American commercial film which figures surprisingly large this year: Michael Cimino's *Year of the Dragon* (savaged by the American critics), Lawrence Kasdan's *Silverado*, Robert Zemeckis's *Back to the Future*,

Louis Malle's *Alamo Bay* or Albert Brooks's genial *Lost in America*. The same is true again of the major successes from international festivals - as well



Johnny Hallyday and Nathalie Baye in *Detective*

as Kusturica. Agnes Varda's Venice prize-winner, *Le Bonheur*, Hector Babenco's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Godard's *Detective* or the odd and

touching *Pumping Iron II - The Women*. The trick of making the most of the festival is to search among the films which have no

there is equally the possibility that this could be a once-and-for-all-chance to see a film of special interest but limited appeal in the larger commercial market. A few such films figure in the following personal recommendations of not-so-obvious Best Buys.

ECHO PARK (Robert Dornhelm, Austria). Loving and lovable group portrait of three people (one of them Tom Hulce, from *Amadeus*) whose small dreams survive the tinsel of Hollywood.

PACKAGE TOUR (Gyula Gazdag, Hungary). An extraordinary gripping, illuminating feature-length documentary about an outing to Hitler's death camps for a group of survivors, whimsically organized by the Hungarian tourist office.

THE RESOLUTION is another Gazdag film, 12 years banned. One hundred minutes of dogged, talky cinema vérité offer a devastating exposé of manipulation of party power in a rural collective. Repays the necessary application.

THE PHILADELPHIA ATTRACTION (Peter Gardos, Hungary). An intriguing tale of an old circus performer tormenting an ambitious young acrobat who wants to wheedle out of him the secret of his greatest escapology stunt.

TOKYO TRIAL. This year's marathon: Masaki Kobayashi's absorbing four-and-a-half-hour compilation on the Far East Military Tribunals of 1946-48.

FUNERAL RITES (Juzo Itami, Japan). A wicked black comedy about the rituals and commerce of death - irresistible if only for its admission that sitting cross-legged may look distinguished but can be very uncomfortable.

BLUE MOUNTAINS (Eldar Shengelaya, Soviet Georgia). Mischievous comedy at the expense of bureaucrats, set in a (literally) disintegrating state publishing house.

MELEK LEAVES (Jeanine Meerapfel, West Germany). Unvarnished portrait of a strong-willed Turkish woman who has witnessed changing German attitudes towards gay

workers, as unemployment succeeds prosperity.

MY SON CHE (Fernando Birri, Spain/Italy/Cuba). Don Ernesto Guevara recalls, through memories and old-home movies, a loved and lively son rather than a myth.

HALF LIFE (Dennis O'Rourke, Australia). Authoritatively marshalled evidence about the human effects of the nuclear bomb tests in the Marshall Islands the "mistakes" begin to look like crimes.

THE CITY AND THE DOGS (Francisco J. Lombardi, Peru). One of the best military school dramas, whether for its cinematic skills, its characterization or its analysis of the moral ambiguities of this microcosmic Latin American society.

YELLOW EARTH (Chen Kaige, China). A Red Soldier, gathering folk music, arrives in a remote northern province where life is hard and old customs seem ineradicable. Set in extraordinary landscapes of dusty hills, the story is told with austerity and delicate human insights.

RACE TRACK (Fred Wiseman, USA). The latest episode in a continuing survey of aspects of

USA. Fierce assault on Reagan foreign policies, through drama about a Chicano engaged with the US Special Forces as a "special adviser" to the Nicaraguan Contras.

THE RUNNER (Amir Naderi, Iran). Story of the lives and aspirations of young harbour vagabonds revives qualities of Iranian cinema of the Seventies.

Practically all the new British films are unknown quantities; perhaps the made-for-television features will (outside their actual television screening) subsequently prove to be the most elusive. Among the most intriguing prospects, apart from *ZED AND TWO NOUGHTS*, are:

64 DAY HERO, Franco Rosso's investigation of the sad career of Randolph Turpin.

PAST CARING and **THE INSURANCE MAN** (Richard Eyre), the first from Tom Clarke's script about wives and passions in an old folk's home, the second, a speculation, by Alan Bennett, based on a real incident from Kafka's life.

Rock

Dexys Midnight Runners

Dominion

Since their early days as part of a 2-Tone package tour in 1979, Dexys Midnight Runners have passed through a baffling sequence of personnel changes and a succession of off-the-peg modish images with one constant factor, the dominating presence of the neurotic vocalist, Kevin Rowland. The poor showing of their recent album *Don't Stand Me Down*, and the disappointing ticket sales for the present tour have done nothing to disabuse Rowland of the idea that the world owes him an apology, and this performance was conducted with all the disdain that he could muster for an audience that clearly failed to respond to his work with the desired degree of reverence. "Respect, you know what I mean?" he challenged the crowd at the end of a rousing version of the Aretha Franklin hit.

If Rowland was able for one moment to shake off his earnest aggrieved demeanour and loosen up a little, it would be much easier to appreciate the appeal of his songs and the undoubted skill of his present band. But the heavily meshed rhythm of "The Occasional Flicker" was marred by a ludicrous dialogue with a "police officer" supposedly taking down details, the taut, brassy "Plan B" wavered uncertainly at the end drawing a rude comment from the front row, and the delicate poignant atmosphere of "The Waltz" was somewhat dissipated when during the closing bars Rowland countered another disturbance with a graceless obscene gesture.

Other songs such as the stylish "What's She Like" and "One of Those Things" were spoiled by irritating "conversations" between Rowland and the guitarist Billy Adams who supplied a sequence of "yes sir, no sir" responses to Rowland's rambling attacks on the middle classes and pop music other than that purveyed by Dexys Midnight Runners.

In many ways, Rowland is an imaginative and innovative artist, and has the material to produce a great show. But with cries of "He's behind you!" underlining the pantomime hamminess of his performance this event became embarrassing. There were no encores.

David Sinclair

Tim Curry opens in *Love for Love* at the National Theatre tonight. Interview by Lynne Truss

Calm chameleon



Curry as Tattle, the half-witted beau

A Halloween celebration in New York marked the tenth anniversary of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Tim Curry, creator of the magnificently outrageous star turn of the show, Frank N. Furter, was unable to attend the celebration. Instead he was putting the finishing touches to a very different sort of role, that of Tattle, a "half-witted beau" in Congreve's *Love for Love*, the first production from Peter Wood's group at the National Theatre.

Rocky Horror was "a wallowing great hit" which made Curry's name, and established him as a performer with a rare power to astonish. What it did not do, surprisingly perhaps, was typecast him: although he played it to the hilt, he was able to leave it behind. He never carries around old roles.

"One tends to just amputate them. It's as though you are an evolving creature: after you've played a role, the part of you that did it isn't needed any more. It can be shed."

Curry is now 39. He reckons that he has already put his mid-life crisis behind him, so he is taking a very positive attitude to his fortieth year. He will spend it at the National, appearing, apart from *Love for Love*, in *The Threepenny Opera* (as MacHeath) and in a new Stoppard adaptation of Schnitzler's *Liebfrauen*.

He has worked with Peter Wood several times before, most recently in *The Rivals*, where the result was a memorable portrayal of the "booby" Bob Acres. Curry had been swatting and buckling away as the Pirate King in the musical *Pirates of Penzance* in Drury Lane. He hung up his purple tights, put on two stones of extra weight, and played Acres as a stocky, bashful young squire with a heart of gold and a smile that stretched from ear to ear.

It was a useful and important step. For one thing, it was a reaction against the glamour of roles like the Pirate King, a way of "getting this over with now, because vanity can be such a huge trap". It was also an opportunity to play someone good-natured and optimistic.

"I've tended to play either dark-sided or else positively sinister people, and that can get very depressing. Because I am actually a very sunny person. It is marvellous to play someone - and Tattle is like Acres in this -

who doesn't have a critical intelligence about himself. "Characters I play often have a searing objectivity about themselves: they aren't particularly fond of the world and have found a pretty snaky path through it. One of the hardest but most enjoyable things about playing Tattle is to remember that he doesn't understand what people think of him, and doesn't realize when they are winding him up."

It is not easy to discern a pattern in Curry's career over the past ten years. And that is a state of affairs he has worked hard to achieve. He describes his own path through the world as "a series of left-turns designed to throw any would-be pigeon-hole off his trail."

He has worked on the Broadway stage (as Tzara in *Travesties* and as Mozart in *Amadeus*), and he has taken a

number of film and television roles (including the lead in the ATV series on the life of Shakespeare). He even took three years off to prove himself as a rock singer, recording three albums and undertaking extensive tours in the United States.

"I'd always been determined that at 40 I shouldn't say, 'I could have been a singer'. I was very serious about it and did it very thoroughly. I even wrote most of the last two records. But in the end I didn't like the people very much, and I didn't like the way the word 'product' rules the business. Also the kind of attention and following that had not a very comfortable thing. People going through your rubbish, and knocking on your door at three in the morning. Death threats. Horrible."

"But I wanted to do it just as I've wanted to do all the other

things. And I do believe that it's all valuable because one discipline informs another. I mean, the 110 per cent energy required to do a musical like *Pirates* - which can only be made to work through sheer force of personality and attack - that's extremely useful for other kinds of theatre."

He feels relatively new to making films, although he has appeared in several, including (a characteristically bizarre combination of innocence and experience) *Annie* and *The Ploughman's Lunch*. Earlier this year he spent a happy three months at Paramount shooting a comedy by Jonathan Lynn (of *Yes, Minister* fame), called *Clue*. And last year he spent a rather gruelling eight months on Ridley Scott's film *Legend*, due for release in December. *Legend* is a fable of good versus evil, and Curry stars as Darkness, an eight-foot diabolic, modelling a stunning make-up of hooves, horns and yellow contact lenses.

"It was a six to seven hour make-up. We would start at 6.30am and I didn't shoot until after lunch. It was horribly uncomfortable. It was actually surgically glued on from the waist up and all the way down the arms. I had to have an oxygen tank in the middle of shooting because it was so claustrophobic." Fortunately you can still just about tell who it is inside. "The mouth is pretty recognizable. I think. But that is all they left me!"

An oxygen tank might actually be a useful appliance to carry around at the National, a building with built-in colds and flu. "Every germ known to man is recycled through the air conditioning here. I suppose gradually you build up an immunity."

While his body adjusts to the system over the next year, will he be casting about for more theatre roles? "I don't suppose so. Going from one medium to another I tend not to be greedy for parts in the way an exclusively theatre actor is. I'd like to do either one of the Richards one day, but I really don't mind. I think I depend as much on a director's idea of what I can do as I do on my own."

"My only rule is that I try to do parts that I'm scared of - parts that I've got a feeling I might be able to bring off, but I'm not remotely sure that I can."

Television

Tall tales from the fourth estate

Every time the screen is darkened by a television series about journalists, complacent men sit in bars around Fleet Street and say: "Of course, if they told it like it really was, nobody would ever believe it." Hold The Back Page! (BBC1), a new drama about a sports writer, may not provoke this response, since it tells tall tales not a million miles from the escapades of the fourth division of the fourth estate.

The situation is a familiar one - a journalist for a quality paper who has a drinking habit, an ex-wife and a child to support lays aside the palm of the poet laureate of sport to take a much better-paid position on an unprincipled tabloid. David Warner in the central role has

the appropriate unhealthy, subterranean complexion and de-fatted body-language: some of the subsidiary casting was equally inspired - both Diana Weston as the glossy public relations blonde and Peter Hugo Daly as the human ferret from a rival rag could have landed jobs in their respective professions instantly.

Some by play with the irritations of modern metropolitan life was an added bonus - like the entryphone door which gave way suddenly under a waiting shoulder, and the kamikaze dispatch rider always roaring out of the cars blind spot.

While *Hold The Back Page* breaks new ground in its genre, being longer and more sophisti-

cated than the average peaktime BBC1 comedy, ITV's rival newcomer *Heart of the High Country* treads a well-worn path.

Many years ago the spoof book *Cold Comfort Farm* should have buried this strain of melodrama, but writer Elizabeth Gowans has either never read this classic or cares nothing for the fact that her tale of rustic brutality, peopled by halfwits, monosyllabic farmers and an innocent maid, uncannily crossed in love, is straight from the same blue print. However, with good photography and meticulous attention to detail, the trite tale was unfolded to good effect.

Celia Brayfield

Faust

Citizens, Glasgow

Even with the latest software at his disposal to control the oceans, Faust is not a happy man - still yearning on for the ultimate. The war updating at the end of the *Citizens* production carries forward with good humour the spirit of Goethe's philosophical but often deeply ironic working of the legend.

Rarely performed in its entirety and compressed in Robert David MacDonald's translation into three hours, Faust's journey to all experience took Goethe over 60 years to complete, spanning his own artistic development and several movements in 18th century

Theatre

German literature. It is moved forward less by plot than by the dynamic sweep of Faust's thirst for experience, constantly rebuffed by Mephisto's nihilism, and by the switchback of cruder experience laid on by Mephisto.

In MacDonald's production the layers of irony that Goethe weaves round the drama, boxing in his testimony to human aspiration, are suggested with witty economy.

"Meanwhile" Faust, (Mark Lewis) lost on Kenny Miller's monumental and uncompleted Hellenic set, seethes with energy and frustration at human limitations, railing against his comically mundane assistant (Robin Sneller) and Mephisto himself - a brilliantly funny,

sardonic performance from Andrew Wilde who slides snake-like, into every incarnation of the steazy, easy, success man.

Through constantly opposed forces, rather than developing characters, the two build up a loose camaraderie with MacDonald's versatile, lucid and accessible translation highlighting the gap between Faust's lyricism and Mephisto's deepening clichés.

The problems really start with Part II presenting Faust's expanding worldly concern through satire and mythological allegory. Despite judicious pruning the momentum flows down in awkwardly staged allegorical passages and humour, always more to the fore, no longer welds together some rather desperate, misfired parts.

But, misfiring apart, the production's chaotic and expansive imaginative scope never really gives out, ending with a marvellously over-the-top upsurge of forward-reaching optimism.

Sarah Hemming

Concert

ECO/Tate

Royal Festival Hall

Perhaps the greatest pleasure of a job like this one is when you come across a performance so good as to silence the notion of criticism in any sense. All that can be done, in response to the English Chamber Orchestra's playing of Haydn's "London" Symphony, which concluded this concert, is to wheel out a few trusty adjectives and hope that they give some idea of a happy experience.

Not that anything particularly flashy or sumptuous was in evidence - just an undemonstrative, gracefully simple style in which sturdiness and subtlety interacted precisely as the music requires. Jeffrey Tate's tempi were ideal, articulating the Symphony's quite spacious dimensions in an unobtrusively purposeful manner.

The performance of Butterworth's *A Shropshire Lad* which opened proceedings, had a

different but equally memorable magic about it, beautifully bringing out the music's poignant intensity. The very opening bars were floated by the clarinets and strings with the gentlest tone you could imagine, and Tate shaped the subsequent paragraphs unerringly.

All the same, I suspect that Oscar Shumsky's contribution to the two other works was what most of the audience had really come to hear, but it must be said that the odd moment in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, such as the double-stopped passage-work in the Andante, seemed to find Shumsky a little uneasy.

But on the whole Shumsky's curiously anti-pyrotechnical mastery was superbly on display: he stamped through the finale's cascade of notes with dazzling nonchalance, and Dvorak's little *Romance* in F minor was tenderly sung, with the orchestra naturally relishing its enchanting scoring.

Malcolm Hayes

Penelope Keith
"A very very funny woman"

Daily Express



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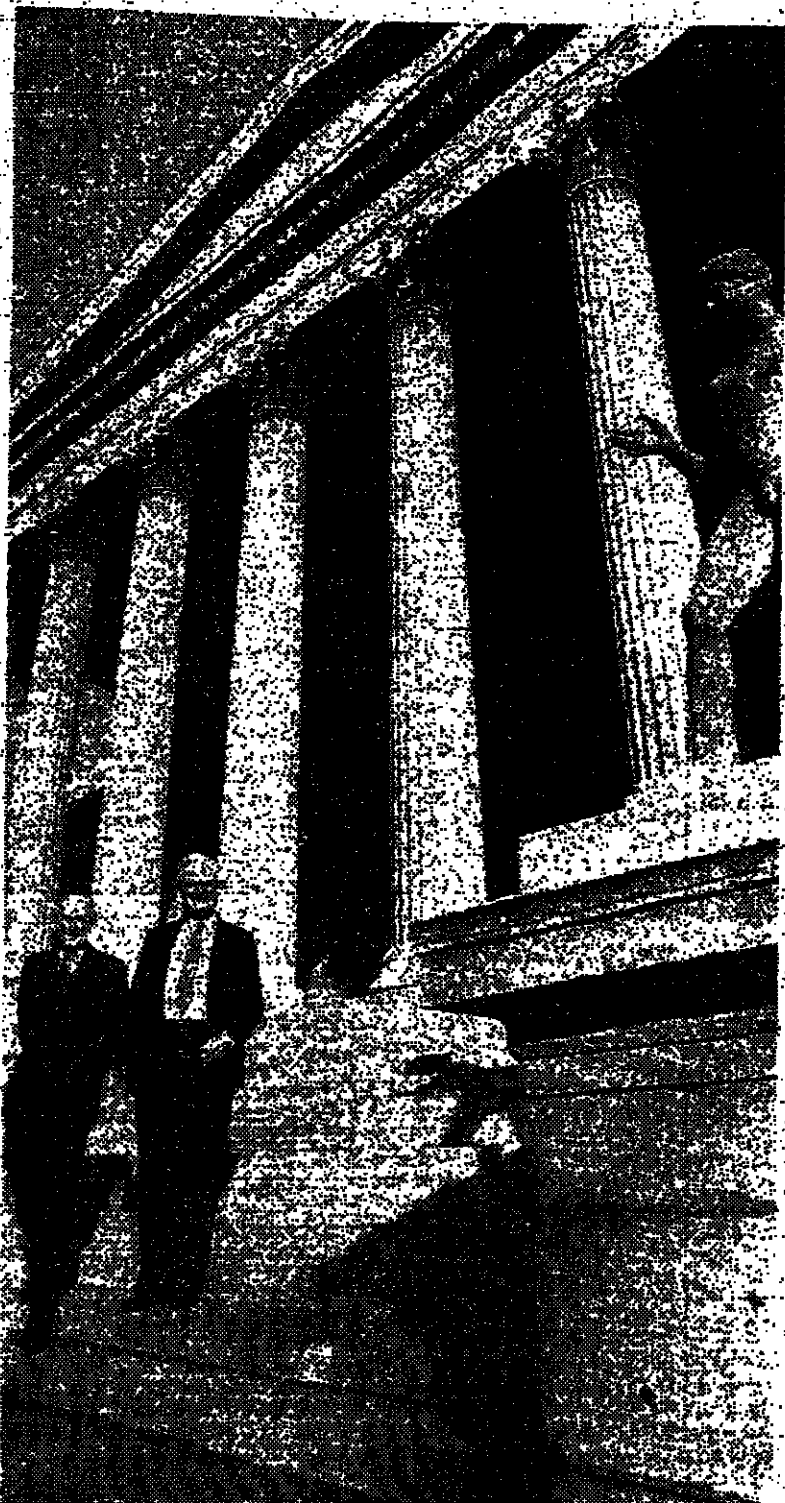
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Leading the way to the USA

As the Queen opens the new quadrangle today, the academics start to work on their image as the capital's traffic roars by

The move to go modern



Steps to the future: the University College secretary General Ian Baker, and Sir James Lighthill, the provost, in the rebuilt quadrangle where academe is only yards away from the bustle of London

Though they would never thank Sir Keith Joseph for it, the financial squeeze applied to British universities in the past four years has forced many academics to be more outward-looking, perhaps even more modern in their approach.

At all levels and in universities old and new, they have had to re-appraise their relationship with the taxpayer. Some have made an active shift to collaborate more closely with industry; others have willingly followed government suggestions about expanding numbers of students in applied science.

But academics, ever conscious of their own distinction, have not quite yet steered themselves to do much about their relations with a public which, truth to tell, is not especially supportive of higher education.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, the universities' main national voice, has been talking for many months about a grand campaign of lobbying and - dread word still in academic circles - public relations.

It is little wonder that Sir Keith, the Secretary of State for Education, in a recent speech to the vice-chancellors had to chide them for failing to put their case for funds before the public and so making his task in Cabinet the harder.

University College London, 158 years-old, and an academic powerhouse by any count, has already taken the decision to create a better public awareness with the appointment of Dr Steve Montgomery as director of external relations.

Dr Montgomery is a highly-respected academic and as a member of the college's department of mechanical engineering, has been working on important projects at the London marine centre - which is within University College - in conjunction with the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

Ian Baker, a retired general brought in recently as college secretary to toughen its administration, said: "Dr Montgomery's work clearly impressed Sir Keith on his recent visit and he will still be involved with the marine projects, but we believe he will make an even greater contribution to the college in his new role, which will take up a lot of his time."

Dr Montgomery will receive policy guidance from an external relations committee and will use two leading public relations consultants in an advisory capacity.

University College, the first significant English university, to be

founded outside the ancient cloisters and a multi-faceted teaching and research institution, might even get a nod of approval from that doyen of English enlightenment, Jeremy Bentham, who still sits mummified in a glass case outside the provost's study.

University College has to compete for funds, from government and industry, and compete for bright students. Misconceptions abound, especially about the pains and perils of life in big, bad London. People think of University College, think of Bentham and leave it at that, Baker said. Staff have too readily assumed the public understood what they are about. It is time University College sang of its virtues.

A start is to be made today when new buildings are being opened by the Queen.

Thanks in large measure to the pharmaceuticals company Sandoz (makers among other things of cyclosporine, the drug French doctors recently claimed will control the AIDS virus), UCL has been able to rebuild and refurbish its nineteenth-century quadrangle. As well as the rent from providing space and research opportunities to Sandoz in Gower Street, UCL has received a capital bonus, which has been topped up by a successful public appeal for rebuilding funds.

Beyond today, how will the college re-present itself to the world? It is a model English university and

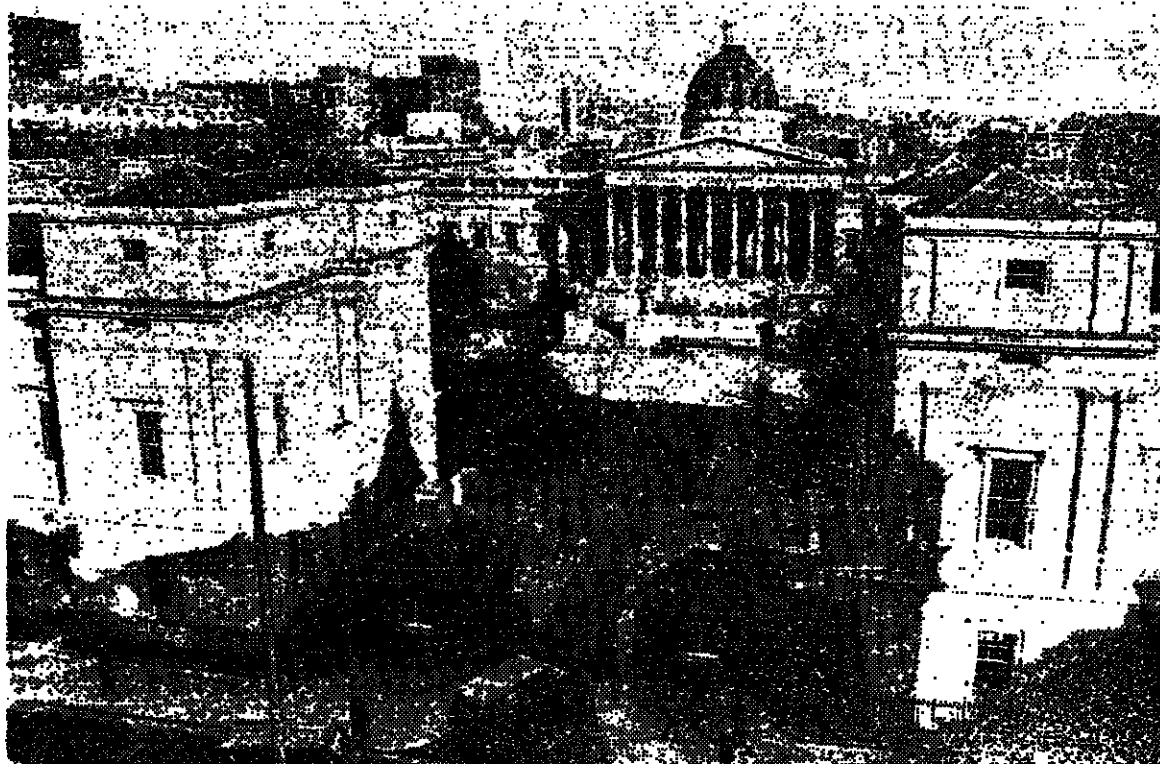
6 Misconceptions about life in big bad London?

one largely untouched by the rapid expansion and academic fashions of the 1960s. Its faculties hinge still on the division of knowledge made by the founding fathers in the 1820s: the study and teaching of law, medicine, the arts and the sciences.

Unlike the new creations on their greenward sites, the college is essentially unplanned.

The present provost, Sir James Lighthill, FRS, is busy, like his fellow vice-chancellors, drawing up plans for research and teaching in all subjects, but he inherited a congeries of departments and special interests, many of which are the product of chance or rather of some lively, enterprising professor who set a ball rolling years ago.

There is no obvious reason, for example, why it should include within it a school of fine art, success in which depends on rather different



The 19th century college with a 21st century outlook

Sir James captures the art of high tech

As provost of University College, Sir James Lighthill lobbies on its behalf within Whitehall, among his colleagues on the Advisory Board for the Research Councils; he makes its case to the University Grants Committee and to all the professional bodies with an oversight on its courses. He does not, however, go "holmboobing".

It is a word which sums up much of the difference between Sir James, a scientist, and his predecessor in office, the writer and historian Lord Annan. Together they span 20 years of academic leadership at UCL. Both are highly distinguished with an enviable reputation in the wide world beyond Gower Street, but one thing Lord Annan most enjoyed was holmboobing. He was good at it, not least among the green banquettes of the Upper House of Parliament. His fame reflected back on Uni college.

College professors, especially in the humanities, freely admit that they had doubts about the appointment of Sir James. A mathematician, a fellow of the Royal Society, with a background in the management of applied research as director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, would he really have the cause, say, of the college's

investment in modern foreign languages at heart?

The parallel criticism of Lord Annan from the science side is that he never really grasped what it took to maintain the physical sciences at the peak of excellence.

After four years of struggling with the reductions in spending per student, ordered by the University Grants Committee in 1981, Sir James is warmly praised all round.

His achievement has been to manage contraction without, it seems, losing academic enthusiasm.

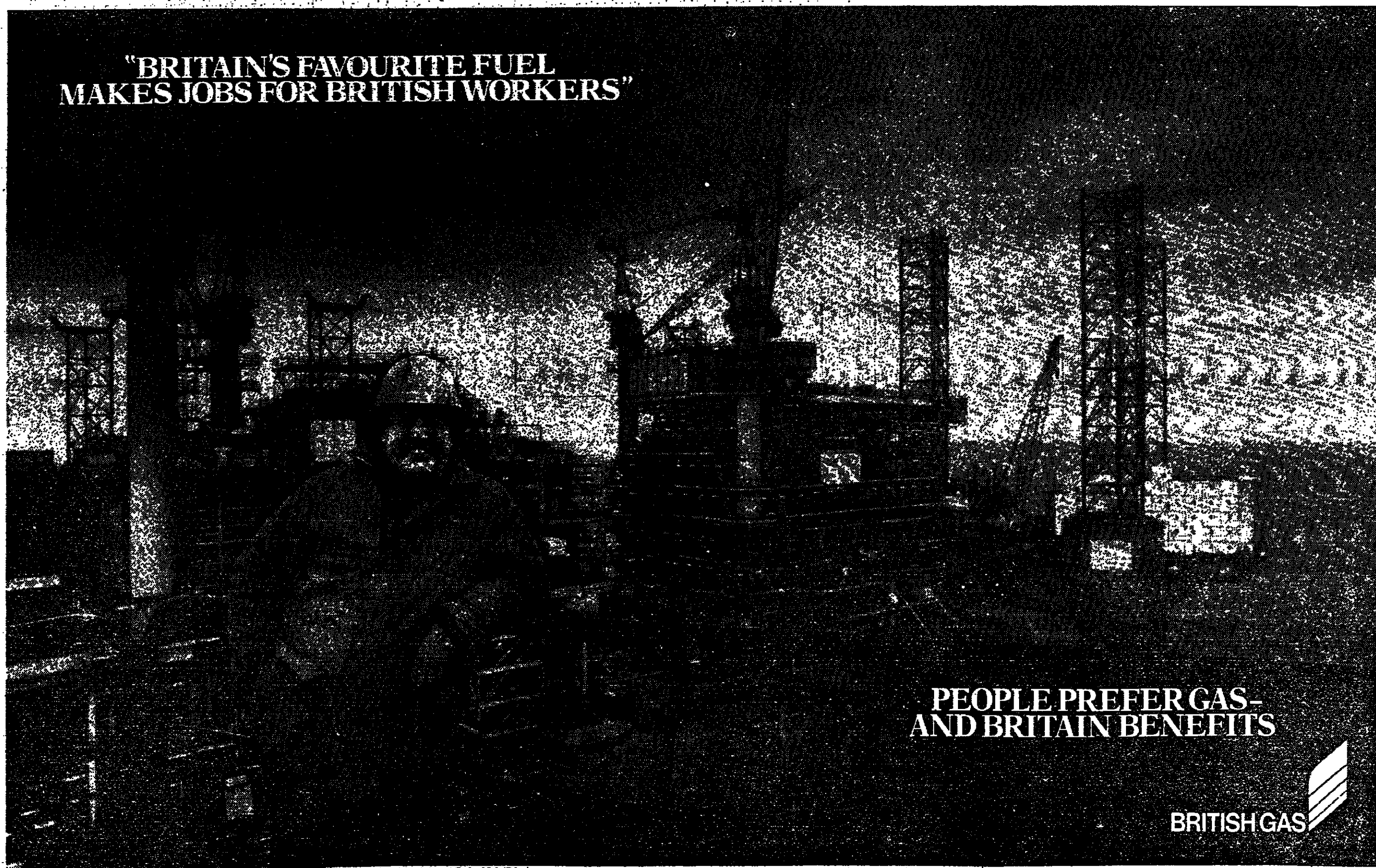
Sir James seems to have made a special effort to support and expand the work in the life sciences and on the new frontier of biotechnology. A per project has been the establishment of an Institute for Biotechnological Studies Ltd, a not-for-profit company that includes researchers from the Polytechnic of Central London and the University of Kent. It is being actively supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, and its ambition is to expand the use of "bio-catalysts" - microbes - in synthesizing new products.

"Lighthill is aware of what it needs to keep up modern technologies," said one of his senior colleagues.

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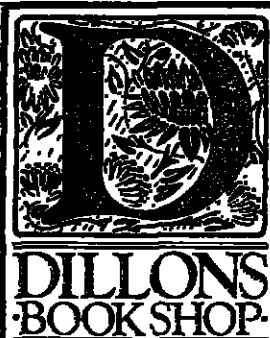
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(SPECIAL REPORT)



The University College roll of distinguished professors and students reads like a Who's Who of British academic life and includes (top, left to right) Sir Stafford Cripps, Dr Marie Stopes, Sir Flinders Petrie, Prof A. E. Houseman, Sir Ambrose Fleming (bottom, left to right) Sir Stanley Spencer, Prof J. B. S. Haldane, Sir Alfred Ayer, Augustus John and former provost Lord Annan... all preceded in Bloomsbury by Jeremy Bentham, still present in mummified form.

Proud tradition of austerity

An important aspect of University College is its devotion to tradition. There is none of that sense of monastic isolation that sometimes permeates the ancient colleges of Oxford and Cambridge or the medieval Scottish universities - a sense of cherishing the light of scholarship far away from temptations of a dark world. The college is old in its buildings and in its habits, but its wordiness is emphasized by the constant rumble of London traffic just beyond its porter's lodge.

It was founded by a group of Regency grandees to break the Anglican monopoly on higher education and give London an urban college of its own. Theology was banned from the list of subjects by charter; its founders dreamed of serious study (they were influenced by German models) of the humanities and sciences and practical work in medicine and technology.

It became an institution for everyman - provided he could meet the tuition bills and possessed intellectual ability. Sociologically, the college is nowadays no more or less middle class than most other universities; it is still characterized by its strictly meritocratic principles. The boys' school, University College School, founded alongside, has since moved to Hampstead where it, like the college, attracts the

bright children of ambitious and affluent parents. Lord Annan, a former provost said: "Scholarship is what UCL is about. That is what comes first in the minds of those who work there".

That is the right word. Its students tend to be serious-minded. Its staff work hard. The provost, Sir James Lighthill, is dry and dedicated.

The professors are usually very conscious of living within a strong departmental tradition, answerable to the ghosts of distinguished forbears. Professor Denys Fairweather is solemnly aware that he is only the third full-time professor of obstetrics and gynaecology; Professor Eric Ash, who last summer left the department of electrical and electronic engineering, to become rector of Imperial College in South Kensington, was often referred to as the "sixth Pender professor".

The students are serious minded

... putting him in a line going back to the start of the serious study of electricity. There is much to be proud of in its tradition of great men. They include Ambrose Fleming, inventor of the thermionic valve, without which there would have been no radio, and William Ramsay, awarded the Nobel Prize in 1904 for his discovery of inert gases.

The teaching staff has included Sir Antonio Panizzi, to whom the British Museum owes so much; the Earl of Gowrie, ex-minister of the arts;

Marie Stopes the campaigner for contraception; J. B. S. Haldane, A. J. Ayer, Karl Pearson, the statistician and eugenicist; Sir Flinders Petrie, the Egyptologist; A. E. Houseman, the poet and professor of Latin; Sir William Bragg, the Nobel winning physicist; A. F. Pollard the historian; and Cyril Burt, professor of psychology from 1932-50, now exposed as a cheat.

Famous students include Joseph Lister, the nineteenth-century pioneer of surgical antisepsis and Stafford Cripps, Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Attlee government.

But Britain is full of institutions with eminent histories which have fallen on hard times. University College was, as a major constituent of the University of London, bound to be pressed for savings when the university's expenditure was ordered to be reduced by the University Grants Committee in 1981. The emphases since have been on economy and the search for alternative, non-public sources of funds.

General Ian Baker, the college secretary says: "There's a fresh spirit abroad. People realize that what the Government has been saying is true: those departments with good relations with industry have proved that togetherness does pay."

Without a doubt this college can - across its departments of applied science - stand up to ministers who criticize the universities for not collaborating sufficiently with industry. The college's show-place is the

department of electrical and electronic engineering. Many of its staff have worked in industry: Professor D. E. N. Davies was director of research for British Rail; and Professor John Midwinter worked with British Telecom.

Every member of the department is expected to have a portfolio of consultancy work with industry. "There's enormous pressure to go out and get money into the department", Professor Midwinter reported.

But if the new technologies have received the new research money, extra student allocations and the kudos of industrial collaboration, there is no sign of work in the other faculties being downgraded. There is broad agreement within the arts subjects that Sir James Lighthill has endeavoured to protect them: staff have been jettisoned, but student numbers maintained.

Pushing for more industrial links

There is, besides, no lack of that spirit of engagement easy to detect in the engineering areas in the humanities subjects. Professor Karl Miller, head of the English department, edits the *London Review of Books* and is a keen participant in literary debate in the metropolitan milieu. English divides into the study of the language, where a more old-fashioned tradition applies, and literary scholarship, in which several of UCL's teachers have made a name as proponents of modern fiction.

Bloomsbury delights the foreign scholars

University College's intellectual life is shaped by its location. "Bloomsbury," said Professor J. P. Stern, a scholar of German literature and history, "is of providing the best undergraduate teaching in physics and astronomy after Oxford."

Location in the capital matters, too. "There is a continuous programme of events at the embassies, East and West, German, Swiss, Austrian, and there is the Goethe Institute with shows and films done extremely well and cheaply."

London is a magnet for foreign scholars and visitors. "We benefit most mainly," Professor Stern chuckled, "from the number of German academics who will come here, at minimal expense to the college, simply because London is an attractive place."

But the College is not entirely in Bloomsbury. It has two small but significant outposts. One is the Mill Hill Observatory - "the only fully-fledged professional observatory in Eng-

land that is open to undergraduates," said Professor Franz Heymann, head of physics. Mill Hill supports the college claim of providing the best undergraduate teaching in physics and astronomy after Oxford.

The physics department has other outposts, too. It operates the Mullard Space Laboratory, near Dorking, Surrey, a specialist centre that has led Britain's work in X-ray astronomy and solar physics and which has already received some spin-off from the Americans' Strategic Defense Initiative.

"We will take defence contracting money," said Professor Heymann, "but we will never do secret work."

The laboratory has begun a programme of work in remote sensing - the use of satellites to record changes on the surface of the Earth. Physics has a couple of rather grand outposts - CERN in Switzerland and Fermilab in America. Professor Heymann and colleagues regularly take vacations to study abroad using facilities that can never be matched at home.



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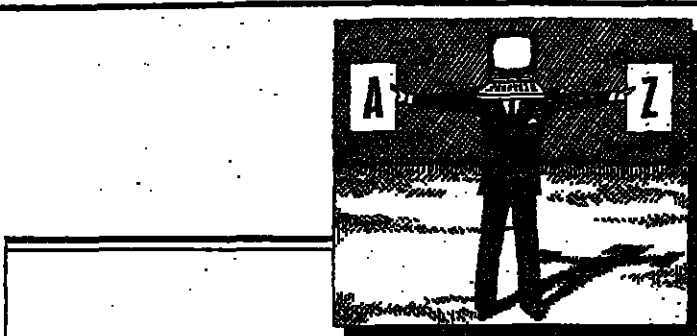
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مكتبة النهر

Aiming to create medicine's top school

Beta-blockers now have an esteemed place in the pharmacopoeia as a treatment for hypertension: their development and clinical testing owe much to University College and its insistence, since the nineteenth century, that medicine should be taught and pursued as a scientific discipline as well as a practical art.

A former head of the college's department of pharmacology, Sir James Black, discovered beta-blockers while he worked at ICI. Later he collaborated with the clinicians of University College Hospital.

Relations between college and hospital have not always run smoothly. Though founded as a teaching hospital only a few years after the college itself, its medical school grew separately and in 1905 became part of the University of London. In 1980 it was re-integrated with its long-lost parent across Gower Street. In two years time Middlesex Hospital Medical School, again a part of the University of London, will also merge.

University College Hospital has a strong tradition of clinical research, in obstetrics, neonatal paediatrics, oncology and gastroenterology.

The plan is for UCL and the Middlesex to form a single school taking in 211 medical students, including a small number who have completed their first degree at Oxford or Cambridge, and 50 dentistry students.

Plans are made more difficult, according to medical vice-provost Professor Denis Fairweather, because of concurrent cuts in National Health Service funding in the London area. Staff has been reduced and the amalgamation with Middlesex, on a site half a mile away from UCL — mean extra. It is anticipated that the new school will become the greatest medical teaching installation in England.

STUDENT ROLL

Faculty	Full time students	Part time
Arts	1992	31
Law	410	6
Environmental Studies	389	6
Science	2175	34
Engineering	884	11
Medical sciences	288	4
Clinical sciences	228	8
	8476	
Students	7980	1986
	(31 Dec)	(5 Nov)
Home undergrad	4511	4578
Home postgrad	784	912
O/seas	383	511
O/seas postgrad	465	475
Total	8123	6476



University College Hospital's fine teaching reputation will be enhanced in 1987 when it merges with Middlesex Hospital

The underground culture

Mornings during the academic term, the Northern Line tube into Warren Street station is a place for underground culture. The tweeds, bulging files, textbooks and college scarves all align there for the warren of academic buildings at the top of Gower Street of which University College and the teaching hospital are the centre.

University College is a commuters' college. There are few staff or students who lack time for reading or revision as they strap-hang into lectures or laboratories. This is a facet of an urban university.

There is no London borough that does not house college staff or students.

For both staff and students housing is the worst part of London life. The college is proud that more than 95 per cent of its first-year undergraduates — 2,000 people — can be found in an official hall of residence. These are scattered throughout Camden and the West End, with one, Goldsmith House, hard by Selfridge's. But in the second and third years, students have to find rented accommodation and it can be difficult. Liz Davies, just graduated from a law course and on an extra sabbatical year, is the student union's officer responsible for welfare. "Every year there are a hundred second- and third-year literally homeless, having to sleep on friends' floors, living out of suitcases. The college perhaps could do more and place a greater priority on providing places in halls of residence."

Her criticism of the college

authorities is gentle. It does not sound from her remarks as if college's 7,313 students — full time, post graduate and part time — are wild radicals. "They're mostly apolitical. Elections for the student union officers are not fought on party lines," she says.

The Labour Club and the Conservative Association manages about 100 members. Merely working on behalf of a miners' support group during the recent strike was considered evidence of militancy. Perhaps

The radical '60s passed them by

this confirms the judgment of the former provost, Lord Annan, that its students "display a greater maturity than those at most other universities," not least because "they declined to exhibit the intolerance and fanaticism which gripped student bodies in the late 'sixties."

He makes a point endorsed by several of the college's professors who remarked — one a little wistfully — that the 1960s, with its academic fashions and its redrawing of the map of learning, had bypassed University College.

There may be a good sociological reason for the quiescence of the college students. They are well leavened, Liz Davies said, by Sloanes. Especially in arts, law and medicine the creatures form a sizeable colony, identified by their accents, money, dress, and

their comparative ease in finding accommodation.

The college has always had a good proportion of women and a good proportion of good women. The provost, Sir James Lighthill, singles out the college's record in co-education in his current annual report. In 1878 University College was the first higher education institution to open its doors to students of both sexes and the proportion of women students rose immediately to about a quarter.

It is now about 45 per cent of full-time students. These women, and their male colleagues, have over the years been taught by a succession of able women dons, especially in botany and English. The advancement of women has had its limits, however. In the academic year 1983-84 there were only five women professors out of a total of 139, and the first female professor was not appointed until 1949 after her academic eminence had been recognized by her election to the Royal Society.

As for extra-curricular activities, commuting home to the suburbs can make evening activities difficult, though the college has a programme of lunchtime lectures. Professor Douglas Johnson, an expert on French history, compared University College favourably to modern campus universities "places deserted at the end of the afternoon."

He says: "We will regularly begin meetings at 4.30 and after ending at about 6.30 go off and have a drink."

Keeping an academic balance

University College has survived intact not only the reductions in unit cost per student ordered by the Government in recent years, but also the expressed wish of ministers to see a sizeable movement of teaching and student numbers away from the arts, humanities and social sciences towards engineering, the technologies and science.

There are 2,600 arts-based students, a figure not much changed from five years ago and more than 2,000 science-based students whose numbers have grown largely because of extra recruitment of undergraduates into electrical and electronic engineering.

The provost, Sir James Lighthill, said firmly, "It is policy to maintain the arts-science balance."

Indeed, down the academic line in the arts subjects there is considerably less of the anguish and complaints met in other universities. "We accept more money goes to science," said Douglas Johnson, professor of French history, "but the split is

not an issue as it is in some places." Even more positively, Professor J. P. Stern, head of the German department, said there is more than one member of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors who could take a leaf out of the provost's book in dealing with non-technology subjects.

It would be wrong to say arts subjects are blooming: they have all lost staff in the past four years and have had to adjust teaching and research accordingly. None the less in several departments there is a sense of academic renewal.

Take German, where the tradition of teaching and scholarship goes back to the days of its foundation when a Prussian refugee (the Berlin police were after him) began giving classes in Gower Street. The big thing, Professor Stern said, is that numbers of postgraduate research students have kept up. "We have people coming forward doing research for the love of the subject, even without the prospect of a university job at the end of it."

Stern, a native of Prague, belongs to a generation of middle-European scholars, many of them refugees from Nazi Germany, who found the college a congenial place to study and teach. Stern, author of books about Hitler and German history, has given the department wider interests. It qualified recently for a "new blood" appointment in German history — one of a limited number of posts created by the University Grant Committee for scholars born no earlier than the 1950s.

An imaginative response to financial pressure is noticeable, too, in the department of classics, an old established department with a reputation perhaps second only to the ancient universities for the depth and quality of its scholarship. Student numbers have been kept up, unlike in classics departments elsewhere; the reason could be the attractive Ancient World degree course combining some study of Greek and Latin with ancient

history, Egyptology and Hebrew, bringing into play the college's scholars in papyrology and other ancient specialisms.

According to Professor Douglas Johnson, in history, even his subject is capable of going out into the world, like the hard technological subjects, and securing support for research work: the States of Jersey and Guernsey are underwriting a history of Channel Islands shipping being prepared at the college. Such fund-raising is rare, though the department is also involved in a large scale project collating and editing the myriad papers of Jeremy Bentham and paid for by the Economic and Social Research Council.

The finances of the history department have benefited from its ability to attract students from overseas, to both undergraduate as well as postgraduate courses and under the modern financial regime in universities their tuition fees count as a bonus.

No reason to leave Senate House

University College is large and multi-faceted. It is four-fifths the size of Cambridge in terms of students: it pulls in more than £14 million a year in research income. It boasts at least a dozen Fellows of the Royal Society. Yet it cannot call its academic leader vice-chancellor or principal. Its degree courses and professional appointments have to be approved elsewhere because it is a constituent of that bigger but amorphous entity, the University of London.

The University of London connexion is puzzling. To most University College students it means a swimming pool — a facility available at the University of London Union in Mallet Street. To the physicists it means access to Cray 1, the giant university computer. Some professors believe they would be better independent of the creaking court and senate of London University.

It was only after the college's foundation that a University of London was chartered, in 1836, to palliate the newly-founded King's College in the Strand and medical interests.

By 1907 the college was formally incorporated into it, giving up various prerogatives,



The Slade School of Art enriches college life

including the right of calling its top man "principal". In 1977, after long years of resentment and friction, University College regained much autonomy: it is now formally a "constituent college" of London University and its largest component.

University College has benefited in recent years as London University has been forced to merge and rationalize its crop of

specialist institutes and smaller colleges. It is in the process of absorbing the specialist medical facilities of the Institute of Laryngology and Otology, the Institute of Urology and the Institute of Orthopaedics as well as merging with the Middlesex Hospital Medical School.

In recent years the college has supplied the university with

its own people as vice-chancellor: Lord Annan moved from the provost's office to Senate House and was succeeded by a University College professor, Sir Randolph Quirk.

But secession is not on the cards: it is enough for college staff to recall that their college was and still, to a significant extent, is the University of London.

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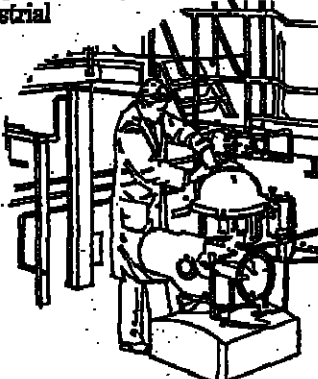
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SPECTRUM

Braced to break the bottleneck

Everyone agrees that Okehampton ought to have a bypass. The question is: which side of the small Devon town should it go? Next week, Parliament debates a Bill which may finally decide the matter. Alan Franks reports

The Devon market town of Okehampton is suffering from a clogged heart in desperate need of a bypass surgery. The condition has been getting worse by the year, ever since it was diagnosed nearly a quarter of a century ago. Opinion on the proper cure is so divided that the case has become the object of a protracted national debate which reaches its climax in the House of Commons next week.

An impatient Department of Transport is determined that the jammed artery, the A30, should be relieved by five miles of new road to the south of the town, cutting across the northern fringes of Dartmoor National Park. Within the next 10 days the House will debate a single-clause Bill authorizing the construction of a four-lane section.

On the face of it the issue is simple enough: to build or not to build. In fact, this episode is the latest, but probably not the last, in a complex constitutional saga which had its origins in the early 1960s and which has now become as long and winding as the A30 itself.

On either side the familiar phalanxes of initials are massing: on the one hand the DoT (Department of Transport), the NFU (National Farmers' Union), the CLA (Country Landowners' Association); on the other the OSS (Open Spaces Society), the DPA (Dartmoor Preservation Association), the "other RA" (Rambler's Association) and many more, including a newer macronomic, ROAMR (Residents of Okehampton Against the Moorland Route).

The mutual reproach is that both teams, having let in goals, are now trying to shift the posts, while at Westminster these past few days there has been intense speculation on whether the Bill is to be the subject of a Government whip or a free vote.

Before examining the legality of the arguments, it is worth looking at the battleground itself, a long-suffering little town bang in the middle of one of the two main conduits to the far west.

The true blight is the endless, growing flow of heavy lorries. They wind through at a rate of 1,300 per day, darkening the front roads, playing havoc with the old coping stones on the Baptist chapel, and threatening at any minute to barge uninvited into a hotel bar. It is a miracle that there have been so few accidents.

No wonder everyone, from local tradespeople to Cornish MPs, is championing at the bit for the bypass. It is one of the few such instances in which no one is suggesting that the town's economy would suffer.



High street: 1,300 lorries a day

But that is where the unanimity begins and ends, for today Okehampton is a community fiercely divided into what it calls Southsiders and Northsiders - respectively those favouring the moorland route and those who, like the Countrywide Commission, prefer the idea of a slightly longer road through the farmland on the other side of the valley.

On a rough count, the Southsiders are in a small majority. The town council itself is 10-6 in favour (although that figure is disputed by opponents). It all has the makings of a civil, or civic war, except for one important fact: there is a huge middle ground of utter indifference as to where the thing is sited; the burning question is when. Back in 1964 Devon County Council put a northern bypass on its long-term development plan, which was adopted in 1971. By 1976, however, the DoT had declared itself to be a Southsider (ie pro-moorland route), and a huge programme of local consultation was set in train in the run-up to the public inquiry in 1979.

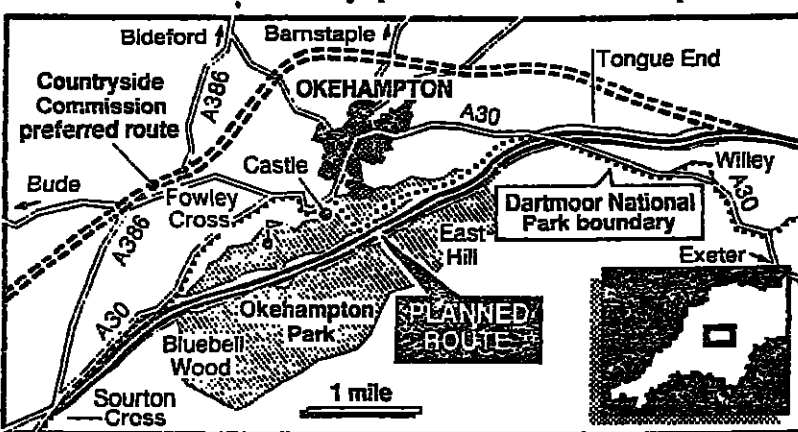
This was a marathon affair, lasting 96 days at an estimated cost of £3,000 a day. The inspector recommended a southern bypass, but he did so only after another four years had passed - a delay caused by his serious illness.

In 1983 the story took a sharp new twist. Because space at Bluebell Woods and East Hill, for which there were no suitable parcels to be offered in exchange, the Compulsory Purchase Orders became subject to Special Parliamentary Procedure under a piece of legislation which has now become central to the whole dispute. This is the Statutory Orders (Special Procedure) Act 1945, under which objectors can take their case to a specially convened Parliamentary Joint Committee of three MPs and three peers.

The conservationists and amenity groups wasted no time in using this provision and in April of this year the



Threat to a beauty spot: the view over Okehampton from the north edge of Dartmoor



Moorland or farmland? The two rival bypass routes

committee recommended by four to two against the moorland route. Jubilation for the dissidents - gall for the DoT and constituency MP Sir Peter Mills, most ardent of the Southsiders.

The Confirming Bill now coming before the Commons would overturn that recommendation and would be, say the objectors, an "unprecedented abuse" of the 1945 Act. The story is yet more complex, for the heart of the matter rests in a single paragraph (Number 58) of a crucial circular (4/76) issued by the Department of the Environment nine years ago. This states: "... no new route for long distance traffic should be constructed through a National Park, or existing road upgraded, unless it has been demonstrated that there is a compelling need which would not be met by any reasonable alternative means."

If the Bill goes through, it will come before the Lords next month, and it is here that the Northsiders place their final hope. Okehampton has become

a procedural test case, for this is the first time a Government has tried to use National Park land for a trunk road since the publication of Circular 4/76.

The Battle of Okehampton - or Soakhampton as it has come to be known, even before the last wretched summer - has already provided the media with a field day: in one corner Sir Peter Mills, a farmer of 300 acres over at Crediton, and in the other Lady Sayer, patron of the Dartmoor Preservation Association and a redoubtable navy widow from down in Widescombe - two classic versions of the English patrician.

ROAMR is chaired by Mr Keith Trenaman OBE ("The letters stand for Okehampton Bypass Efforts!"), a retired forester who worked for 20 years in the Solomon Islands. The membership of several hundred is whipped into tireless leafleting by Dr Bill Hunter, its secretary.

"Okehampton hasn't got a history of dissidence", he says. "It's not what you might call a Tolpuddle. A lot of

people are just saying: 'Oh well, if the Government says the road's going across the moor, that's it. There's nothing we can do about it.' That's not our view at all."

"You see, this is a town which must accept that it will rely on tourism to a great extent. There is no better amenity than that moor up there. I know; I've been walking it since I was a boy. Slap a road across the shoulder and what do you do? You wreck the very thing which you should be preserving."

And there's another point. "If the road goes through, how is it going to look for all the other National Parks in England? They won't be safe any more."

"That's just utter nonsense." The words come from Walter Passmore, veteran town councillor, former mayor twice over and member of an old Okehampton family of hauliers. "Some of these people, they come into the town, and after a couple of years they think they know it all."

The Government's done nothing wrong. These committees are only there to recommend, not to dictate. "The Department of Transport is now offering 37 acres of land for public use, including seven as a picnic area, plus the planting of 70,000 trees as part of the landscaping. This whole thing's gone completely out of control. It's become a nonsense, democracy gone mad."

Down in the bar of a pub on the main road the landlord is trying to make himself heard over the din of container lorries: "This building's been standing more than 200 years. Wouldn't surprise me if it had to do the same again before we get that bloody bypass. I ask you."

Strong medicine for the chemist?

A new contract for pharmacists will lead to closures.

Nicholas Timmins investigates

Pharmacists are divided and the Government is in an embarrassing legal mess over a new contract for Britain's 11,400 chemists' shops which critics claim could cause thousands to close and harm patients.

Supporters, however, maintain that it will benefit the taxpayer, the patient and the pharmacists themselves. Big companies, like Boots and Underwoods, cannot agree whether the contract is something they can live with, or a cause for court action. And the chemists' established negotiators are faced with a splinter group of rebel pharmacists who claim 4,000 shops could close.

The contract's origins stem from problems for both pharmacists and the National Health Service. Pharmacy is a profession that is lost and looking for a new role. The advent of modern, pre-packaged drugs has removed the need for their old skills as alchemists of potions and tablets. Increasingly they have become over-trained purveyors of soap, cosmetics and nappies.

They believe they could do much more monitoring of doctors' and patients' use of drugs, helping cut drug bills, providing more advice on minor ailments without the doctor being bothered, and in some cases providing drugs at present only on prescription. They also want to run health education services and screening for conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes.

For the NHS to fund and make such services work, however, pharmacies should be positioned where they are needed - where people actually live. At present a pharmacist can open where he chooses, with automatic entitlement to an NHS contract. The result has been their gradual disappearance from suburban, residential and rural areas.

New shops have been opening at an accelerating rate

New chemists have been leap-frogging existing ones to get nearer the doctors' surgery, poaching existing chemists' businesses and making up to 600 chemists shops virtually impossible to sell.

In addition new pharmacies have been opening at an accelerating rate - 350 this year against 130 in the same period last year - with around 700 more applications outstanding.

The new contract's aim, according to its negotiators, is to produce a more rational spread of pharmacies, giving the taxpayer better value for money by encouraging many small, uneconomic and poorly located pharmacies, dispensing less than 16,000 prescriptions a year, to close.

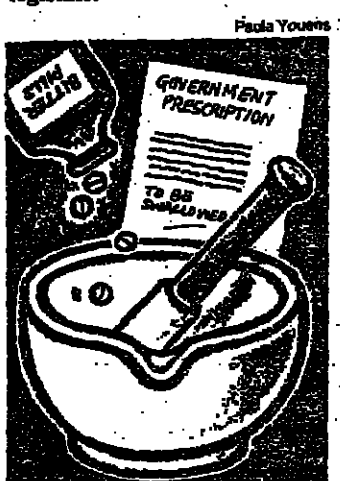
New pharmacies would not receive an NHS contract unless deemed "necessary or desirable". But at the same time a

new class of "essential" small pharmacies would be created with a guaranteed income of £23,000 a year from the NHS. The package would save £4 million to split between the Government and pharmacists, and for two years small chemists would be offered redundancy payments to close or merge ranging from £3,500 to £22,000, depending on size.

Alan Smith, chief executive of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, which prepared the contract, says: "The package should offer a way out to pharmacists tied into unsaleable businesses, produce a better spread of pharmacies prevent leap-frogging and provide more pharmacies where people actually live."

How many chemists will fold is hotly debated

But such seemingly reasonable proposals have produced a storm of protest. Underwoods threatened legal action if the Government went ahead. The British Pharmacists Association, a newly-formed group of small pharmacists which refused to disclose the size of its membership, threatened likewise. And the Government, after believing it has the powers to bring in the contract, has now decided to legislate.



The objections are many and varied. Critics claim that by limiting the places where new NHS pharmacies can open, the proposals will discourage competition that would produce a better service. Young pharmacists, they say, will find it harder to open up, and the guidelines stating that new pharmacies must be "necessary" are attacked as "woolly".

How many chemists will close is hotly debated. A firm of independent retail analysts, Verdict, estimates up to 1,000. "Our estimate is perhaps 600 over two years", says Alan Smith. "Some of these will be unsaleable businesses anyway. Some of the small pharmacies said to be threatened will be classed as 'essential', and new pharmacies will find it easier to open in areas that are uneconomical at present."

"The current distribution of NHS Pharmacies is nonsensical. We have a rational distribution of doctors' surgeries to try and ensure there is a patient service in all areas. All we are doing is saying that, like doctors, a pharmacist can open anywhere, but only get an NHS contract if the services are needed."

TOMORROW



Red head: Times Profile of Mikhail Gorbachov

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Low-lifers in Texan gaols can learn to ride high on bucking broncos, writes Trevor Fishlock

The rodeo stars in prison stripes

The Crossbar hotel is where 23-year-old cowboy Kelly Gage is. That's Texas prison slang for gaol. "Had a money-hungry girlfriend", he said by way of explanation. "So I got desperate and tried to rob me a bank." He gave a rueful grin. "Warn't like it in the movies, though. So now see where I am."

"But I've kept my nose clean and hope to be gettin' into the free world in a few months. If I hadn't kept my nose clean I certainly wouldn't be in this here rodeo this afternoon."

That is the rule. Only well-behaved convicts earn the privilege of riding their necks at the Texas Prison Rodeo. This is the time they have been looking forward to for months, when they dress in prison-stripe shirts and trousers, put on their hats and boots, strap on leather batwing chaps - and find out how many seconds they can survive on the back of bucking broncos and triable bulls.

The Prison Rodeo is a rough and tumble Texas tradition in which convict cowboys chance their arms, legs and ribs to entertain the public in the Huntsville Prison Rodeo Arena which is built like a Roman circus stadium, within the prison walls. Death-row prisoners do not compete.

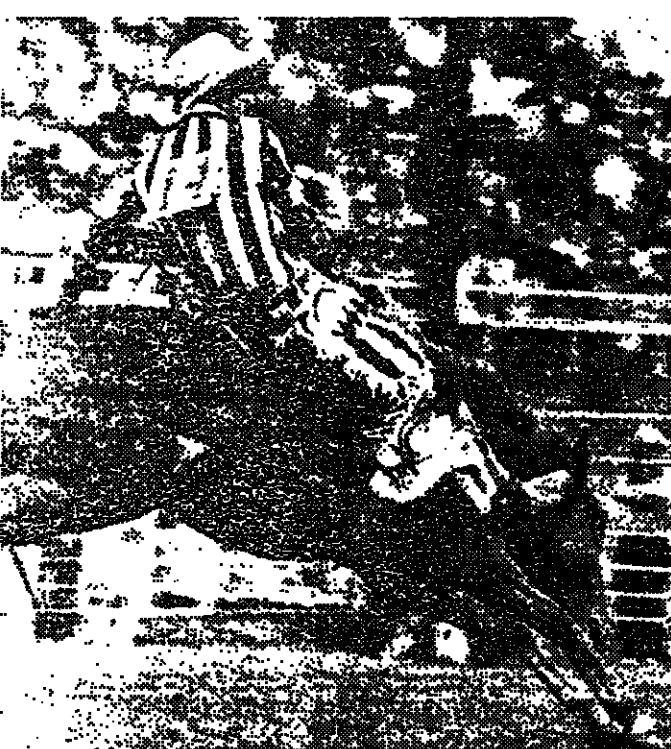
As it happened, we might have witnessed the last rodeo because critics are saying that it

is too dangerous and exploits the prisoners. They want it closed down - and the rodeo's future is now under review by the authorities. The dangers are all too plain to see. The tone was set by the first event, called the mad scramble, in which 10 stripy cowpokes, mounted on wild bulls, raced across the arena to earn a fistful of dollars. Most of them bit the dust after a few yards.

The final event was called Hard Money. Forty convicts went into the arena to compete for a prize of \$400. The essential difficulty was that the money was in a tobacco pouch tied to the horns of the most irascible bull in the show.

Snorting and pawing and swinging its horns, the bull tossed men into the air as if they were rag dolls. They leapt onto the railings for their lives as it chased them. Stunned and breathless men were dragged away - but, at last, one of them lunged at the bull's head, grabbed the purse and sprinted off in triumph. One of the prisoners, who had been savaged by the bull, lay gasping in pain.

Exploitation? "No, sir", said Kelly Gage. "We love it. It gives us something to live for. People can see that we are human, just like them, not monsters, but guys who just fell off the



Something to live for: convict cowboy in action

lightrope. We get self-respect out of it, and a break from the routine."

Jay Byrd, the rodeo director, said: "Many of these men have never been winners. The rodeo gives them pride. They have to work hard at it and take responsibility for themselves."

Stanley Stillmoking, aged 51, a Blackfoot Indian from Montana ("in for burglary, more or less, and I get out next year") has worked with horses all his

life. "This is great for the men. If they stop it everyone loses."

The prison rodeo has been an institution for 54 years. Today it attracts audiences of 14,000, but it started in an informal way as recreation for prisoners who had had experience on the outside, or free world as prisoners always call it, of bareback riding, roping and wrestling steers.

These days the knowledge of those skills is dwindling and

many of the cowboy prisoners in the rodeo have learnt them in prison. A second group of contestants, known as redshirts, are a sort of B team who have no cowboy skills and take part in events like calf-tieing and wild cow milking - catching a recalcitrant cow and squirting its milk into a Coca-Cola bottle. And these are the men who go for the purse on the bull's horns.

Proceeds from the rodeo, which is staged on four consecutive Sundays, go to the prisoners' education and recreation funds serving all 26 jails in the Texas prison system. The money buys television sets, and sports and gym equipment. Last year it was discovered that some prison employees had creamed off the cash. They were sacked.

Prisoners do much more for the rodeo than ride on ornery animals. They play the Country and Western bands that perform inside and outside the prison walls as the crowds congregate. They play the rodeo clowns. They make the leather bags and belts and other goods that stock the inmate craft shop, and produce the handsome glossy-covered rodeo programme which is well supported by advertisers. It lists contestants with their names, home towns and their sentences, ranging from three to 99 years.

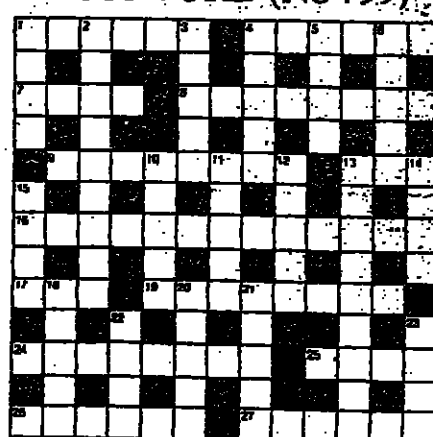
The Rev Carroll Pickett, a prison chaplain, said: "We all want to see this thing survive. It is good for the inmates. For their morale."

Some of these men don't even get visitors. The rodeo gives them something to live for."

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4 Road channel (6)
7 Status (4)
8 Play preface (8)
9 Flood (8)
13 Network (3)
16 Joining in (13)
17 Boulder (13)
19 St Anthony's Fire (8)
24 Uniformed (8)
25 Wound mark (4)
26 Population count (6)
27 Automatic reaction (6)

- DOWN
1 Journey charge (4)
2 St Petersburg (9)
3 Speedy (5)
4 Relish smugly (5)
5 Ilium (4)
6 Give off (5)
10 Sound (5)
11 Growing old (5)



- 12 Praire (5)
13 Capricious (9)
14 Link (4)
15 Saga (4)
18 Similar (5)
20 Horse straps (5)
21 Longer existing (5)
22 Military food hall (4)
23 Nub (4)

SOLUTION TO No 798
ACROSS: 1 Weirid 5 Jinx 8 Ingot 9 For ever 11 Personae 12 Suit 15 Die 16 Fledermaus 17 Opus 18 Adaptive 21 Epitome 22 Multi 23 Germ 24 Shrewd
DOWN: 2 Eager 3 Rut 4 Offhandedness 5 Jerk 6 Novella 7 Hippodrome 10 Roussier 12 Oily 14 Crop 16 Erudite 19 In-law 20 Form 22 Mar

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AIR FRANCE

هكذا من الصعب

WEDNESDAY PAGE

The second in a three-part series on love, sex and marriage in Britain

Secrets of a modern bedroom

Men have traditionally led the way in sexual matters, but is the pattern changing? Are women beginning to take the initiative at last? Laurie Taylor looks at our attitudes to the opposite sex, with the help of a group of young couples



Suresh Karada

Is the modern woman becoming more demanding in sexual matters than the passive creatures of past generations? The answer seems to be that, in certain circumstances, she is often the one who makes the first move.

A recent MORI poll asked women over the age of 18: "If you feel like having sex with your partner, how often do you take the initiative?" Twenty per cent said "never", 34 per cent said "sometimes", 13 per cent said "often", 9 per cent said "always" and 3 per cent said "I don't know".

With those figures in mind, and the recent National Marriage Guidance Council report that more and more men are asking for help with marital problems, it would be all too easy to assume that many men are being reduced to impotent, shivering spectres of their former selves in the face of this sexual revolution.

But it is a revolution that needs careful examination. In the married women's discussion groups organized by the Research Business, there was an almost complete agreement that it was the man who took the initiative.

Only when Louise, aged 22, introduced the subject of special occasions was the pattern brought more into line with MORI: "I'll sometimes prompt round him, a bit after we get back from an evening out. Try to interest him in the idea."

It is very rare for the woman to actually show interest

Judith (24): "I will do something like that if we've been to a dinner party and I've had a few drinks."

The MORI poll suggestion that more women might be taking the initiative in sexual matters also needs to be set alongside the continued readiness of many women to be "treated" by men on social occasions. When Gallup asked: "Do you agree that when a man invites a woman out socially he should pay regardless of earnings?" 65 per cent of the men agreed and 50 per cent of the women. Only 14 per cent of the women believed that they should share the cost if they earned a similar amount to the man.

The single men in a discussion group had no doubts that they led the way on sexual matters.

James (22): "Nine times out of ten it's the man."

David (24): "It's very rare for the woman to actually show interest."

But although the man may take the initiative when it comes to sexual activity, he will often assume that the woman has already taken the contraceptive initiative. Despite the "men too" campaign by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service there is little evidence that men are prepared to reassess any part of the responsibility which the widespread reliance upon the oral contraceptive placed on women.

There was a slight decline in the popularity of the Pill after 1976, but in recent years the number of users has remained relatively constant at 1.7 million (58 per cent of those using any method of contraception). The pill is favoured by 16 per cent, the cap by 7 per cent, and the diaphragm by 10 per cent. Women seem none too pleased with this situation.

The women in the discussion group were mostly hostile to abortion, as were those questioned by recent opinion polls. Although the annual number of abortions in England and Wales is now about 127,000, there was no sign in the Gallup poll that abortion had become taken for granted. Only 29 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women questioned by Gallup approved of abortion when the child was "unwanted".

The figure was lower for abortion on demand (15 per cent both men and women) and even when the mother was "under age" there was only a minority approval for termination (40 per cent). The only headings under which abortion was favoured by a clear majority were "mother's

health" (78 per cent), "child handicapped" (67 per cent) and "result of rape" (74 per cent).

Interestingly, this was one area in which the attitudes of the young were, if anything, less permissive than those of the middle-aged.

Sarah (22): "I'm not being pious, but not to take anything and then say, 'Oh, I fell pregnant, I'd better get rid of it', I feel that's just irresponsible."

Melanie (22): "Gay guys are lovely. They are the kind of men you could never hope to meet."

Marian (24): "Yes, they will talk to you. Take you out. Be friendly with you on a purely friendly basis. You can talk to them about everything."

Gallop shows 57 per cent of the 30 to 39 age group approving of sex before marriage; nearly 70 per cent of the 16-year-olds say that they would have sex before marriage. And while half of the 30 to 39-year-olds believe that girls under 16 should get contraception without parental consent, among the girls themselves the figure is 67 per cent.

A permissive attitude to early sex among young people does not mean that promiscuity is tolerated. The ideal is still one sexual partner, and "sleeping around" is looked upon with favour only by a small number of young men. This group must have their work cut out to find accessible women. In the MORI poll, nearly 6 out of 10 of the women had never had sex with anyone but their present partner, 27 per cent had had only one other partner, and 30 per cent two others; 7 per cent had 10 or more partners and 2 per cent could not remember.

Even among those young males where the average can be higher, it is dangerous as Michael Schofield has pointed out in the book *Promiscuity*, to equate this with licentiousness or an insatiable sexual demand. Sometimes it is the sexually unconfident who are promiscuous. Some are in that no one wants to have intercourse with them more than once; others profess to so little interest in sex that they only seek out a partner two or three times a year. A few promiscuous people are very active, but most of them have less sex than the married couple

who remain faithful to each other.

Even this relatively small band of promiscuous people looks likely to be diminished by the increased fear of herpes and AIDS.

One other indication of the complex nature of "sexual permissiveness" among the young is to be found in their attitudes to "blue" films and pornography.

Although many young men have seen such material and are often prepared to admit that they enjoyed the experience, young women objected most strongly to it.

Their concern about pornography is not primarily about its intrinsic quality but about its capacity to become a substitute, not a stimulus or accompaniment to normal sex. The strongest denunciation came from Marian (23): "I told him one night he was pathetic. He was living in a fantasy world. The only girls he really liked were twelve inches tall, completely silent, and had a staple through their navel."

Such critical attitudes to promiscuity and pornography among young women do not suggest that the dramatic swing away from marriage among those under the age of 30 has much to do with sexual permissiveness. Whatever men might want - and there is certainly a great deal of talk among them about sexual experimentation, blue films, and "sleeping around" - it looks as though they must be having some difficulty in finding women who share their tastes.

FRIDAY

Modern morality part three: does more sex mean better sex?

There is no sign that abortion is being taken for granted

Rebecca (24): "If I've had sex and haven't used anything, I'm worried for a whole month that I might be pregnant because I know that if I was there is nothing I could do. I wouldn't be able to go along and terminate pregnancy."

Rachel (22): "I don't agree with abortion unless the child is handicapped. Otherwise if you took the risk then it is now up to you to have the child."

Liz (22): "A couple of months ago I thought I was pregnant. Michael did mention abortion. I walked out and left him."

The single men were even more moralistic about the subject.

Hugh (21): "If you get in that situation, it's your own fault. You've made your bed and now you must lie on it. That's what we're here for - to create life. Not to kill it."

Peter (22): "If a girl gets pregnant accidentally I don't think she should have an abortion."

Whatever decision is made, the consequences are probably far more significant for the woman than the man. Indeed, the young women we spoke to, married and unmarried, were united by their sense that most matters concerning sex were more a problem to them than to their male partners.

Neither did it seem that these concerns could be shared. Even though sexual behaviour might now be more "liberated", conversation was still remarkably repressed. Men would talk

all night about sex itself but not about the practical problems surrounding it.

It was only when the women were asked about their attitudes to homosexual men that the conversational barrier between the sexes showed any sign of crumbling.

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For your Christmas cooking, there's no taste like home



Shona Crawford Poole



Tasting 20 or more Christmas cakes was an odd, but undeniably interesting, way to spend a morning. The cakes were this year's offerings from the chain stores and, despite what their labels said about the mountains of butter and lakes of brandy used in their construction, it was not by any means easy to detect either in the most of the finished products.

Which is one reason why, if you can assemble the time and inclination, it is still worth making traditional cakes and puddings at home. There is not much chance that the effort will save money, but it is a pretty poor cook who cannot turn decent ingredients into better than bought festive fare.

It is well worth taking pains to assemble the best ingredients available. Even if you have to stone muscatel raisins by hand, it is time well spent for their superb flavour.

A rich fruit cake should be just that - rich and fruity. Mine has plenty of nuts, pecans for preference because they are sweeter than walnuts and the skins are not bitter, and lots of glacé cherries or other candied fruits but not candied peel. I prefer the flavour of freshly grated zest, orange or tangerine.

Christmas puddings follow the same pattern and this year are again flawless. Copies of this recipe have been requested more often than any other published in recent years. I think it combines the best of old and new - the full traditional flavour deceptively lightened.

Make a shallow depression in the centre of the cake so that, when the mixture rises, the top will be roughly level.

Bake the cake in a preheated oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for 1½ hours, then reduce the heat to 140°C/275°F, gas mark 1, and continue cooking for about another three hours. The cake is ready when a warmed skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. If you think the cake is browning too fast, cover the top loosely with foil. Ovens do vary, so check it frequently.

Let the cake cool completely before turning it out of the tin. Strip off the baking papers before storing the cake in an airtight container.

Feeding the cake with a little more brandy or whisky will make it richer still and ensure that it is moist. Sprinkle three or four tablespoons of spirits over the base of the cake before storing it. This process can be repeated a day or two before the cake is to be used.

Fluffed-up spiky peaks of icing are easy to achieve. Or, better still, cover the cake with almond paste topped with neat rows of closely packed nuts and glacé fruits.

Put the butter and sugar in a large bowl and cream together until light and fluffy. In another bowl, beat together the eggs, marmalade and zest. Beat the eggs into the fat a little at a time, adding a spoonful of oil of flour with the last few additions of egg to discourage the mixture from curdling.

Now stir a spoonful or two of flour into the dried fruit and toss the fruit in the flour to coat it lightly. This helps to prevent the fruit from sinking to the bottom of the cake.

Fold the remaining flour into the mixture and stir in the brandy and spices and set the mixture aside.

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Mix thoroughly to form a soft, sticky dough.

Line several baking sheets with rice paper, or non-stick baking parchment. Pipe small mounds of the mixture (about 1.5cm, ½ in diameter) on to the paper using a plain nozzle. Space them well apart.

Bake the ratafias in a preheated oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for about 45 minutes, or until they are a pale, pinky brown.

Transfer the ratafias, still off the paper, to a wire cooling rack. When they are quite cold, trim off the rice paper, or peel them from the baking parchment. Store in an airtight container.

Christmas pudding Serves 8 to 10

225g (8oz) stoned muscatels or other raisins

225g (8oz) currants

170g (6oz) fresh brown bread crumbs

55g (2oz) blanched almonds or pecans, chopped

55g (2oz) glacé cherries, quartered

55g (2oz) light muscovado sugar

2 tablespoons finely grated orange or tangerine zest

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

¼ teaspoon ground cloves

3 large eggs

150ml (¼ pint) port

6 tablespoons brandy

Put all the dry ingredients - the raisins, currants, bread crumbs, nuts, cherries, sugar, zest and spices - into a large bowl and mix them thoroughly together.

In another bowl, whisk together the eggs, port and brandy. Pour the liquid over the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly.

Butter a large pudding basin and put a circle of buttered greaseproof paper or baking parchment in the bottom. This helps to stop the pudding sticking and breaking when you come to turn it out.

Put the pudding mixture into basin and cover it with buttered greaseproof paper and tied on tightly with string. It is important that no water gets into the puddings while they are cooking.

Stand the pudding in a large saucepan and pour in boiling water to come about half-way up the sides of the basin. Bring the water back to the boil, reduce the heat to a gentle bubbling simmer, cover the pan and steam the pudding for five hours. Check the water level from time to time, topping it up with boiling water as required.

Feed the pudding with a tablespoon or two more of brandy before covering it with fresh papers and storing it in a cool place. On Christmas Day steam the pudding for two hours.

This flawless Christmas pudding keeps every bit as well as more conventional mixtures. The quantities may be doubled or halved to make larger or smaller puddings without altering the cooking times which are designed to maximize the flavour.

Ratafias Makes 100

5 egg whites

225g (8oz) ground almonds

340g (12oz) caster sugar

1 teaspoon almond essence

Ratafias are an old-fashioned Christmas standby. They can be served as biscuits, in trifles, with ice-cream or as petits fours.

Whisk the egg whites in a large bowl until they form stiff peaks. Fold in the ground almonds, sugar and essence.

The name I never dropped . . .

FIRST PERSON

Christine Brown

Not many people have to think twice about their name, but I do. When I married for the second time I changed my name on paper, but not in spirit. My new name was on the wedding certificate, but nowhere else. I meant to do something about my bank account, building society account, doctor's list, passport, and the umpteen other things, but I didn't.

As time went on I felt a strange reluctance to change. I don't quite know why. When I remarried I had no strong feelings about losing the old name. True I'd had it

THE TIMES DIARY

Rumbling masonry

War has broken out among the brotherhood. Freemasons, already under attack from the Church of England and the Methodists, are divided over proposals to sell the Royal Masonic Hospital in West London. Britain's biggest independent hospital. Possible buyers include American Medical International, Health West, and other US-based groups that are looking for a foothold in Britain's growing private medical sector. Advocates of the sale say it would allow a fund to be set up to subsidize the care of masons in private beds. But this idea has so enraged a group of London masons that they have circulated all 10,000 lodges arguing against it. Why is the hospital's management board considering selling for about £20 million when the building is insured for £44 million, they ask? Michael Richardson, managing director of Rothschild's and chairman of the hospital board, says the higher figure represents the cost of replacement in the event of total destruction rather than a realistic sale figure. He rejects out of hand masonic suggestions that he is AM's banker, that he, says, would be "a terrible dereliction of duty". He wants the best deal for the masons; but he needs a 75 per cent majority in the forthcoming ballot of the hospital's 300,000 governors. Looks doubtful.

Sideline

The latest recruit to the GLC's press office? Former Workers Revolutionary Party *Newline* journalist Paul Feldman, on a two-month £200-a-week contract, to help liaise with the local press. *Newline* readers need not despair, however. Feldman has broken away to join the party's Gerry Healy wing and can be read in the alternative *Newline* writing about the GLC under the by-line Philip Wade. A conflict of interest? "It won't be the first time a contract press officer has taken on outside work," says the GLC's chief press officer, Tony Wilson, magnanimously.

Orrid

Winston Cornell, the market trader in Leeds who has been happily operating under the name "Arrods" for seven years, has just been rumbled. Harrods has threatened High Court action unless he drops the name. Yesterday Harrods said sniffily: "There can't be much news around if you are lurking after this." Poor Arrods were 'umble: "How could anyone confuse us with the real thing? Dropping the haunch has just been making people laugh for the past seven years, that's all."

BARRY FANTONI



"I hear he's changing the location to pre-war Bradford."

Number nein

Three months after dejected MP Reg Fresson claimed that his local Labour Party's membership count was "extensively inaccurate and deficient", Labour leaders have just decided to spurn his call for a national executive committee inquiry into the allegations. At a meeting on Monday, the NEC organizational committee decided that the national agent David Hughes should merely seek to meet Fresson, who has been replaced by Ken Livingstone as prospective candidate for the seat (Brent East). Fresson's own report on the party, a copy of which has been passed to me, claims the party's figures for 1984 include 14 people who were not members, 29 of "doubtful" status and 44 not on the electoral register. From questionnaire returns, he estimates total false membership could be 200. Fresson, hearing Monday's news, told me: "I cannot understand how a party receiving that kind of evidence could refuse to hold an inquiry."

Have a dig

I hope the anonymous sources who send the Diary jibes brown-envelope "leaks" (more please) are feeling inspired: the Corbridge Leek Club in Tyne and Wear writes to ask PHS to donate a perpetual trophy to encourage its novice grower class. Suggestions for a suitable gong on a postcard please.

Going, going...

Lady Spencer must be ruing the day she refused to contribute anything from Althorp to the Treasury Houses of Britain exhibition in Washington. Although Britain's heritage is the philosophy behind the show, cynical art historians are convinced it is also serving as a "shop-window" for certain works. One man spotted "looting up" the exhibits the other day was one Joe Floyd, Christie's chairman. PHS

Lloyd's, blinkered and unreined

The manner of Ian Hay Davison's departure as chief executive of Lloyd's of London ensures that the City insurance market will have an uphill task persuading someone of similar stature to take on the job.

The insurers' ruling council seems to feel that it does not want someone of Davison's clout because the market has sufficiently recovered from recent traumas to stand on its own two feet again. In taking that view, it is blinkered beyond belief.

At Christmas, 1982, the then Governor of the Bank of England, Lord Richardson, asked Davison to leave his safe post as a senior partner of Arthur Andersen, the leading accountancy firm, to take on the newly created full-time post of chief executive at Lloyd's. The plan was that he would stay for three to five years, and as recently as February this year Davison said his task was far from over.

What was Davison's task? It was nothing less than to restore the confidence of the world in Lloyd's after a succession of scandals that revealed a web of corruption involving hundreds of millions of pounds. The City fraud squad and the Inland Revenue were camped on Lloyd's doorstep, and it was clear that the rulebook would have to be rewritten.

William Kay on the abrupt departure of a chief executive

Subsequently Lloyd's was subjected to two Department of Trade investigations, an independent report by Lord Fisher and an Act of Parliament giving the market a new constitution under a 25-strong council. The constitution gives the council the power to create by-laws to establish a framework for Lloyd's to regulate itself.

The departure of Davison highlights an embarrassing gap in that legislation. The Bank of England has the legal power to confirm the appointment of three outsiders to the Lloyd's council, but it does not have the legal right to choose the chief executive. It did so in 1982 because Lloyd's reputation was in tatters and, in the words of the then chairman, Peter Green, "I thought the Governor would be more effective in obtaining his (Davison's) agreement than I would".

Davison was brought in as a potential ambassador who, it was thought at the time, might easily overshadow the chairman's role. The present chairman, Peter Miller, has resented such an intrusion into his territory, and relations between him and Davison

have been poor for some months. The Lloyd's council now clearly believes it has earned the right to act as the Stock Exchange council does, with the chief executive a mere administrator. But there are important differences. The Stock Exchange has patently been better regulated than Lloyd's and is to be brought under the regulatory system set up in the forthcoming Financial Services Bill. Ultimately, the trade and industry secretary will be able to correct any wrongdoings at the Stock Exchange. Lloyd's, however, is outside the scope of this Bill, because its own Act was thought to be sufficient.

Miller's own commitment to reform is beyond reproach, but he may have to step down at the end of 1986. His willingness to let Davison go has cast some doubt on the strength of his ability to push reform through in practice.

The affair has reverberations in Whitehall. The Thatcher government has pursued a "hands off" policy towards markets and the question now is whether the authorities can stand by and let Lloyd's go its own way so prematurely. Backstage pressure through the Bank of England may not be enough to pull it back into line again.

The author is City editor of The Times.

Martin Fletcher on the effect of Kinnoch's anti-Militant stand in one key city

Labour Test with good results

Six weeks have elapsed since Neil Kinnoch made his non-famous speech at Bournemouth denouncing the "generals of gesture" and the "tendency towards the Militant Tendency" on his party's primacy of the need to win back power.

Last night he returned to the subject by setting out his views on democratic socialism - views that do not encompass the methods and ideologies of the Militant Tendency.

It is good headline stuff, but at the same time, in countless constituency Labour parties throughout the country, reselection battles are taking place. Conflicting tactics and ideas are fighting for preeminence, and preparations are being made for the next election. How have these been affected by what Kinnoch had to say at Bournemouth? How far have the ripples spread?

Southampton Test is one of those weather-vane constituencies that Labour must win back if it hopes to regain power. It has consistently swung with the national mood, switching from Labour to Conservative or vice-versa five times in the past 30 years.

In 1983 the Tory MP James Hill increased his narrow majority to more than 9,000, closely reflecting the national swing. It comes 95th on Labour's list of regainable seats, but the local party suffers from two of Labour's perennial problems. First Militant is sufficiently strong in the local party for its candidate to have secured 40 per cent of the votes in last month's reselection contest. Second, the Alliance is sufficiently strong that at the last election it split the anti-Tory vote down the middle.

The immediate impact of Kinnoch's speech has been striking. Within a month Southampton Labour Party, which covers both Test and the neighbouring constituency of Itchen, recruited no less than 85 new members, nearly double the number recruited in the same post-conference period last year and a quarter of the total recruitment for the whole of 1984.

Ruth Denham, wife of the Southampton party president and Ichen parliamentary candidate John Denham, canvassed one street the night after the speech. She signed up seven new members on the spot and left membership forms with another four interested householders. "It was an absolute knock-out," she recalls. "We have never had that sort of response before."

The speech also significantly raised morale among existing members. According to one, "it wiped away the trauma of the 1983 election and made people think Labour can win again". John Denham believes it has "greatly increased the number of people who feel not only that Labour must win, but that they have a personal role and responsibility to ensure it does".

From this changed mood, much follows. For a start it may have prevented a reselection success for Militant, which undoubtedly agreed within the armed forces and strength, if not control, in four of the seven wards. It had evidently taken the decision after the last election to pull out of Itchen and concentrate on Test, and for the last two years it



has conducted what even an opponent described as an "heroic" campaign to secure the nomination for its own candidate, Sue Atkins.

Standing against her was Alan Whitehead, the young leader of the city council who has moved sharply rightwards since Labour took control on the council in May, 1984. He was, by his own admission, "turned from being the Livingstone of Southampton into the Kinnoch of Southampton".

Kinnoch's October speech noticeably raised both the temperature and attendance at the three ward nomination meetings held after the conference. At the final selection meeting on October 30 a remarkable 75 delegates out of a maximum of 84 turned up, one driving back specially from Ireland, another hobbling in on a broken foot. In the first ballot Whitehead got 36 votes, Atkins 30, and the other two candidates nine between them. In the second, Whitehead secured nomination by 42 to 33.

Whitehead believes Kinnoch's performance may have influenced six of the nine waverers to cast their crucial votes for him in the second ballot. Sue Atkins concedes that, mindful of the ensuing outcry if they selected a Marxist, they probably took "the line of least resistance".

More important, however, was the turnout. Given the disparate beliefs of the principle contenders it was always going to be high, but Whitehead suggests that without the new mood engendered by Kinnoch, "some people would have said 'Why bother to turn out for this selection meeting because we are not going to win this seat anyway'". Had that happened, he says, "I would have lost the nomination".

Atkins could have won, a delegate said, "if people felt the seat was not winnable and therefore it didn't matter who we selected. But there was a sense that we were selecting an MP, not a candidate, and that was reflected in the turnout".

In another, more subtle way Kinnoch's speech has strengthened the hand of the more pragmatic left in Southampton. Since taking control of the council, Whitehead and his colleagues have avoided

recapitulating and confrontation with the Government. They have implemented no extreme left-wing measures. They have preferred to do the best they can within the constraints imposed on them by central government, and have indulged, if need be, in compromises.

It is the sort of council to which Kinnoch gave credit in Bournemouth. "They truly put saving jobs and protecting services first and they found the means to do it. Sometimes very unpalatable means. Always difficult decisions. But they found them. They used all their creativity to find ways that could best protect those they were elected to defend."

It is an approach that has won Whitehead few friends among the Militant and more hard-left members of his party. As Sue Atkins put it "I didn't join the Labour Party to try and run things better than the Conservatives, but to try and change society." On occasion the general management committee has come close to withholding support from the council's Labour group.

On October 10, however, the management committee held its first post-conference meeting. A resolution was proposed supporting Liverpool's fight against the Government. It was passed, but only after speaker after speaker had drawn the clear distinction between support for a hard-done-by city and support for the tactics employed by the ruling Militant faction. There was, says one of those present, "some very outspoken criticism" of Militant's methods, "much more pronounced" than he had heard before.

Whitehead suggests Kinnoch's speech had the effect of "crystallizing" in members' minds the options available to Labour councils. It "drew distinctions about different routes to socialism and got away from the linear definitions about whether you are on the left or right, goodie or baddie".

Correction

Miss Winifred Stone is director of the Church of England's Children's Society, not of the Church Society as given in an article about Gillick on October 31.

New lease of life for the death squads?

Fresh from an emotional reunion with his daughter Ines after her six-week ordeal in the hands of guerrillas in El Salvador, and from a warm welcome by Ronald Reagan in the White House, President José Napoleon Duarte was in good form when he addressed journalists in Washington recently.

The "merciless violence" in his long-suffering country owed everything, Duarte declared, to the "support, direction, approval and timely protection of the terrorist dictatorship in Nicaragua". The recent wave of kidnappings of government functionaries, and the killing of six Americans at a pavement café in San Salvador in June, he said, amounted to the opening of a new front in the five-year-old war with the Marxist guerrillas. Their objective was "to provoke repression, introduce disagreement within the armed forces and my government and frighten the civilian population by showing that no one, not even the president, was safe from terrorism".

Strong stuff, delivered with Duarte's usual aplomb as demagogue and diplomat. But as a diplomat at the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington unkindly observed, the Salvadoran leader's main aim had clearly been to lay down a "smokescreen" to conceal the extent of his troubles back home.

The decision to hand over a

sizeable collection of wounded guerrillas and several rebel commanders in exchange for Ines, her girlfriend and a handful of local government officials was bitterly opposed by a number of senior figures within the armed forces.

It has also been argued, with some force, that capitulating to the guerrillas' demands made further kidnappings of prominent targets almost inevitable. The ultra-right wing Arena party, implacably opposed to Duarte and his Christian Democrats, has weighed in with newspaper advertisements spelling out this criticism in spiteful terms.

So is this the end of the uneasy honeymoon between the president and his generals? Barely six months ago, there were encouraging signs that the army really had become more interested in defeating the guerrillas on the battlefield than cooperating with right-wing death squads against "enemies of the fatherland". This owed much, of course, to the realization among brighter officers that Duarte's elected civilian government was indispensable if they were to guarantee the flow of military and economic aid from Washington. Even so, there seemed some cause for guarded optimism in a land where despair had become endemic.

The word in Washington is that the military's price for going along

with the exchange of prisoners was an even freer hand in the conduct of the war. Since the failure of the peace initiative that had started so hopefully a little over a year ago, senior officers have been complaining that while their men fight and die, the government seems utterly incapable of winning its own economic and political battles.

The headlong disintegration of the economy is particularly damaging for Duarte. Guerrillas are once again stepping up attacks on the country's crumbling infrastructure: bridges and railway lines are blown up, pipelines and electricity networks sabotaged, crops, equipment and warehouses in vital coffee and sugar growing zones relentlessly destroyed.

Duarte is most threatened by two factions. Leaders of the major trade unions, once staunch allies of Duarte, are now strong critics. Unemployment among their members is well over 50 per cent, the Salvadoran colony is plunging in value, and foreign investment has dried up.

American intelligence sources believe that union leadership is well infiltrated by guerrilla supporters and a new campaign of strikes and protests to destabilize Duarte's administration is expected. On past form, this would invite a violent backlash from the right.

There are ominous signs that hard-line businessmen, notably the

embattled coffee growers, are itching to unleash their well equipped private armies against "the thinking is intrinsically bad, but with some exceptions," one prominent industrialist told a reporter recently. "Right now, in this place, at this time, someone may be waiting to kill us. You don't need to wait for a threat to defend yourself." In other words, the Union of White Warriors and the Maximiliano Hernandez Anti-Communist Brigade, two of the most feared death squads of recent years, wait in the wings.

All this is observed with understandable satisfaction by the guerrilla leadership. The new helicopter-borne mobility and sharply increased firepower of El Salvador's armed forces, courtesy of Uncle Sam, may finally have dashed their hopes of glorious victory on the battlefield. But the rallying cry up in the mountain strongholds these days is "war of attrition," a long march to compromise with an exhausted and bankrupt government.

That obviously puts José Napoleon Duarte bang in the firing line. Guerrilla radio now denounces him as "the criminal of the moment" and no measure - kidnapping, assassination, economic strife - that increases the strain on his administration is going to be neglected.

Philip Jacobson

Jack Straw

Race: the real jobs handicap

We now have a piano. It has brought with it unexpected delights, like the need to stop our five-year-old from showing his affection for his three-year-old sister by closing the lid on her fingers, and explaining why the alphabet on the piano ends at G.

I have also purchased volumes of sheet music, to push me back up to my grade five level of 24 years ago. The book of 66 nursery rhymes fell open at "Tom, he was a piper's son." And the line in that song "over the hill and a great way off" put me immediately in mind of my Lancashire neighbour, David Waddington, the accident-prone Home Office minister for race relations and immigration, with whom I exchange correspondence more often than I did with the first girl for whom I had an infatuation.

Waddington has the next constituency to mine, Ribbles Valley. We share a boundary, but there the connection ends. The Ribbles Valley is over the hill and a great way off. It might as well be another country. As readers may recall, Clitheroe, at the heart of Waddington's bailiwick, has had the second lowest unemployment rate in the country, bettered only by Epsom and Ewell, while in Blackburn and North-East Lancashire unemployment is well above the national average. A recent analysis shows that in parts of the town it is above 45 per cent, for male Asians, it is 48 per cent.

If Waddington were to pay a state visit to Blackburn, he would there discover the answer to a problem which is taxing what remains of the Conservatives' conscience, namely how to help Asians and West Indians find jobs, without appearing to discriminate against the white population.

It is a problem which has ministers tied up in knots. Waddington recently told the nation that the Home Office was moving towards "contract compliance" measures by which the government's considerable purchasing power would be used to improve employment practices of its suppliers.

He added that he did not think "we can have reverse discrimination in this country" - a sentiment later echoed by his boss, Douglas Hurd, who was faced with shrieks of alarm from the CBI and Conservative backbenchers and public opposition from ministers at the Department of Employment. Even the insulting (and wholly inaccurate) notion that contract compliance might lead to unqualified blacks being preferred for jobs to qualified whites was trotted out.

Reverse discrimination - a condescending arrangement which ends with blacks having more jobs than their numbers or qualifications would otherwise allow - might occur if there were equality of opportunity; if, to use the analogy of the race track, blacks and whites were lined up together at the starting point, and the only determinant of their position at the winning post was

speed in the race. But this is not the case. The labour market, especially during recession, works differently. There is some massive (if impersonal and inadvertent) discrimination against West Indians and Asians that most cannot even get into the stadium, let alone secure a place when the starting pistol fires.

The meticulous study of the Blackburn and Darwen labour market published by the University of Manchester in the summer showed that the large Asian community was not subject to discrimination when it came to redundancies and the loss of jobs. Nor did Asians feel discrimination when looking for jobs. Nonetheless, the recruitment system discriminated against them, so that on average they are out of work for twice as long as whites with similar qualifications.

The explanation of this systematic discrimination lies in how people get jobs. Most jobs are filled not by Jobcentres but by informal contact with job-givers - foremen, supervisors, managers who, for the best and not the worst of human motives, seek to endow the gift of work which they hold upon their friends, relatives and neighbours. Job-givers are almost exclusively white. The Asians and West Indians, the outsiders, are not considered, and jobs go to whites.

Contract compliance measures and sensible quota systems rather than discriminating in anyone's favour, would ensure equal advantage: they make job-givers think twice before they give a job to someone they happen to know, and force them consciously and conscientiously to consider recruits from the community as a whole.

The need for equal advantage measures exists in every area of employment, but nowhere more acutely than in the police force. Waddington knows of the urgent need to broaden the social base of the police. "There are many signs that if you increase the number of black policemen, you can avert a lot of trouble," he said last month. But recruitment under the present passive system is getting worse.

The claim that the number of ethnic minority policemen in England has doubled since 1982 disguises an alarming situation in London, where the number of recruits from these groups to the Metropolitan Police has almost halved: 65 were recruited in 1982, 74 in 1983, but only 36 last year. The net increase in 1984 was 15, since 21 officers left the force.

Hurd has described the levels of non-white officers in the police as "woefully inadequate". He is right. But he, and those others who have qualms about quotas, must be asked what instead they intend to do. Or are pious phrases and public hand-washing to be their substitute for a policy?

The author is Labour MP for Blackburn.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Fly-by-night sales, inc.

Here is a very important announcement from Lord Moreover.

As you know, Moreover Enterprises have never been slow to take advantage of any money-making opportunity. I believe that our only setback in recent years was our narrow failure to take over the Monopolies Commission, which is still to this day an unprofitable enterprise. More of that some other time.

But this month's money-making opportunity is undoubtedly Halley's Comet, and today Moreover Enterprises are proud to unveil a whole range of unparalleled services for those unlucky enough not to have seen this magnificent blob in the sky on a previous occasion. And chief among our offers is a lifetime model of the Comet itself.

As you know, the Comet is a sparkling scimitar of gases several billion miles long, bigger than the entire American national deficit and longer than the queue on the 24 near Heston in which I was trapped this morning. Yet according to scientists, the solid part of the Comet could be reduced to a bundle no bigger than a good quality white handkerchief.

"And if you send up for our Moreover Comet Model, that is exactly what you will get - a fine quality Irish linen handkerchief, corresponding in every serious scientific detail to that great Comet which will be dominating the newspapers for the next few months, if not the skies. You will be able to stun your friends and amaze your family by taking out our facsimile Comet and simulating its presence by waving it in front of them. Only £450, including presentation showcase."

"There is still much controversy surrounding the Comet, of course, and nowhere more so than over the pronunciation of the name of its discoverer. It would be cruel to have to spread the next few months in silence, simply because you were shy of mispronouncing Halley. Is it Halley, Hauley, Harley, Hooley, or even some Celtic variant such as Chauley or Featherstonehauley?"

"So we have produced a handsome commemorative volume called *All you ever wanted to know about what's-his-name's Comet*, and then some, which settles the pronunciation problem for once and for all. It also goes in some depth into the career of Sir William Halley, this versatile man who combined astronomy with editing *The Times*, running the BBC and leading one of the most successful

rock 'n' roll bands of the 1950s. This book, amazingly, is also exactly the same weight as the Comet would be reduced to its constituent elements. Only £150, including free titanium bookmark."

"If you are not content with this but wish to see the Comet itself, we have arranged a trip to that part of the world where a clear view of this majestic pimple is most likely. Starting on December 15, my own personal sea-going yacht SS Off-Shore Enterprises will be starting a world tour which will take in a full-scale Christmas party, the Chinese New Year and Mardi Gras in New Orleans. We should be back in these shores by late spring, and if we have not seen the Comet, we shall have had plenty of fun meanwhile. Berths from £4,500. Black tie and long dresses, please."

"Halley's Comet is traditionally supposed to accompany the onset of great disaster, and none could be greater than being trapped in endless conversations about Halley's Comet. So our last and perhaps most useful offer is a Lucky Silver Halley's Charm, which if worn round the neck is guaranteed to keep you free from uninformed and idle speculation about this amazing heavenly phenomenon, which I have personally seen and which I can testify looks like nothing so much as a bank of hair stuck in some celestial bath plug-hole."

"We have already had much success with our Lucky 1984 Silver Charm ("Thanks to you, I got through 1984 without reading a single Orwell book," testifies one reader) and our Magic D. H. Lawrence Dangle Doll ("You won't believe it," says another typical letter, "but 1985 is almost over and I have avoided all radio and TV tributes to this self-important Nottinghamshire gas-bag. Thanks a million!")."

Halley's Charm, you too can stay clear of bar-room bores going on about how you can see the Comet clearly from Peru or how, apparently, it really frightened the English horses at the Battle of Hastings. If you get involved in one fruitless discussion about Halley's Comet, we guarantee your money back. The money, incidentally, is £500. May I take this opportunity, by the way, of saying that I have recently come into possession of a few paintings by Claude Monet, which are now ready for putting on the market discreetly. "I look forward to receiving your cheques at the usual address: Moreover Atoll, near The Cayman Islands. Keep the money rolling in!"



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A POLITICAL STATEMENT

For a Chancellor who aspires to a stern financial principle, Mr Nigel Lawson has produced a remarkably political bundle of budgetary decisions. Yesterday's "Autumn Statement" will win him more friends in his party than in the City. Its detailed contents are quite well judged. The economic prospects they offer for 1986 are decidedly encouraging. The Treasury's forecasting record has recently been good enough for us to have some confidence that next year may well prove to be — as the Chancellor claims — the first for well over a decade in which prices rise barely faster than output, which in turn may grow by 3 per cent.

We would then have experienced six years of continuous economic growth. During four of these, unemployment has grimly continued to rise, but the registered total has been broadly steady for six months now. It may even fall a little. Yet the City's doubts reflect real anxieties about the financial framework intended by this Government to sustain and control our wayward economy. The Autumn Statement does little to assuage these worries.

Mr Lawson has certainly increased the turnover of government activity. He has doubled the rate at which he is selling off shares in state enterprises. This is welcome, as evidence of the Government's increasing self-confidence in its ability to float off nationalized industries into private hands, and of the increasing popularity of the drive to privatize previous functions of the state. But the receipts are all going to finance increases in public spending, leaving net expenditure in both 1986-87 and 1987-88 unchanged from previous plans.

Some of this reflects the pressure of increased costs. Over a third of the extra receipts for next year (about £1 billion) are being absorbed by the Government's biggest spending programme — social security — where the recent blip in inflation automatically pushed the bill above planned levels.

Much of the rest, however, has gone on programmes of clear public appeal: hospital building, for example, housing renovation, road construction and inner city improvements. These all reflect strong political demands, and will do something to increase the share of public spending that goes on replacement and maintenance of our capital stock.

In this obedience to the infrastructure lobby, however, Mr Lawson — or rather the Prime Minister — is clearly changing the rhythm of budgetary policy. It is all the more necessary that the Chancellor should keep up the beat of sound financial control.

The signals, however, are muffled. In this Autumn Statement, we have been deprived of short-term information as to the Chancellor's intentions. We do not know how large a gap there is between his spending total for next year and the Treasury's forecast of likely revenue. The Chancellor has not, therefore, reconfirmed his borrowing target or told us what scope he believes he has for tax cuts. We have been told only that these will be "considerable and justified". We have not been given the figures on which to base that justification.

Instead, the Chancellor has presented us with detailed spending plans not just for next year, but unusually for the following two as well. This, however, is poor exchange. The totals for the subsequent years will be fought over again in cabinet next autumn, and the autumn after. It is on shorter-term questions that the City's eyes are fixed.

Public borrowing, this year, is now expected to overshoot the Chancellor's springtime target by about £1 billion. Mr Lawson's target for broad money has already been abandoned, as Sterling M3 is growing way over the top limit. For next year, the spending target has only been maintained by netting out nearly £5 billion of asset sales; and the spending reserve has already been pared down below the level set for this year. Uncertainty hangs over the Chancellor's target for public borrowing, and still more over the kind of

monetary target he will dare to set. The bolts around the scaffolding of his financial strategy look somewhat loose.

Mr Lawson claims that it is still sound. His defence is reasonable. Public borrowing, even at the new forecast level of £8 billion, would still be lower this year in relation to our rising national income than it has been at any time since before the Heath boom. Public spending, even if the benefits of asset sales are excluded, will still be broadly constant in real terms for the rest of this Parliament, and will also fall in relation to total national income. This stand-pat policy is some way from the early, ambitious phase of the Government's financial strategy; but it can hardly be described as profligate relaxation.

There remain, however, two real causes of concern. The Chancellor's strategy looks non-inflationary because his forecast, quite plausibly, shows inflation coming down. This, however, is nothing to do with our own recalculation, whether natural or government enforced. It largely reflects the weakness of the prices we are paying for the raw materials of industrial activity. This benefit, through falling import prices, can be undone by a slide in sterling — as it was, briefly, at the beginning of this year. Mr Lawson has already suffered one experience of the damage City scepticism can do to the pound; and through it to the whole course of the economic policy.

Mr Lawson's present defence against a repeat is a firm hand on interest rates, as demonstrated in his recent speech to his City-watchers at the Mansion House. The Autumn Statement is the political counterpart of this. Taken together, they add up to a slight loosening of budgetary policy which is intended to be balanced by a tighter monetary grip. The first represents quite a skilful manipulation of public finances to meet the Government's political objectives. The character of the second is still not clear, and the cost of uncertainty can be high.

MR KINNOCK'S BOLT-HOLE

Mr Neil Kinnock has delivered his dissertation on the "vanguardism" of the "entryists" who persist in infiltrating and "exploiting" the Labour party. He neither minced his words nor disguised his target, the Militant Tendency. His Fabian Society audience was reminded that throughout Labour's history, such "self-appointed elites" of "democratic centralists" have used undemocratic methods to stifle dissent within their own organizations, and that they are also wholly dishonest. "Since — in their view — the ends are held to justify the means a neat and nasty tactic called 'revolutionary' truth provides a licence to lie about their own organizations, their funding and their aims."

All this is true and it would have been hard to put it more trenchantly. But what is Mr Kinnock proposing to do about it? He acknowledges that the ideology of the Leninist and Trotskyist "vanguard" requires secret organization, and that the Militant Tendency "is too dishonest to acknowledge that it has membership, too cowardly to organize and operate as a separate party, too contemptuous of the people it calls 'comrades' to tell them the truth."

Yet having made his diagnosis, for all practical purposes he throws up his hands on the grounds that proof of formal and personal commitment to the Tendency organization is needed before its adherents can be put out of the Labour party, and that such proof is lacking. Where there is proof there can be action, he says, but he lacks it. For the most part, he relies on defeating the Tendency by argument and numbers.

The hard men of the Militant leadership, not least the over-mighty barons of Liverpool, must be laughing uproariously this morning. For they are safe. Mr Kinnock has now made it clear that he distinguishes between those who unacceptably belong to the Militant organization and those who ostensibly support only the Militant newspaper, which is the position of Mr Derek Hatton, and of Mr Tony Mulhearn who is trying to oust Mr Kilroy-Silk from his Merseyside seat.

In other words, dangerously damaging though the Militant Tendency is to the Labour party, Mr Kinnock's position is that nothing can be done with the militants in the places of influence and power.

Mr Kinnock does his reputation no credit by stating the problem and then running to such intellectual bolt-holes. Nor is it a mark of political courage that he apparently adopts the position that only the constituency parties can realistically expel the Militants, and that action by the National Executive would merely create problems and martyrs. It is true that constituency parties can and sometimes do fight back with success. But where a whole constituency party has been captured by the Militants, who is to recapture it if the central leadership will not act?

Of course, Mr Kinnock has a problem about proof. But if Labour cannot find proof of the sectarianism within its ranks, it says little for its power or capacity for self-government. Mr Kinnock is right to reject those who think that resistance to the Militants is over-reacting because they are small in number. But if he is to fight the Tendency it should be with deeds not words, and while that fight is on it should not distract the rest of the nation from the fact that the most dangerous part of the hard left inside the Labour party is too clever to belong to Militant. They, of course, are not mentioned by Mr Kinnock at all.

SECURITY FOR THE EMIR

Relations between Britain and Qatar have improved immeasurably since 1821 when an East India Company warship attacked Doha and reduced it to rubble. The Emir of Qatar will be speaking today with the Prime Minister of his oldest ally in the West. Written treaties between the two countries extend back to 1868.

The latest agreement, the 1971 Friendship Treaty, pledges both countries to "consult in times of need". From the Qatari viewpoint, the vast majority of domestic needs have been satisfied by oil revenues. It is in the area of security that Qatar is at most need of its friends as it faces up to the reality of being a micro-state on the periphery of the Iran-Iraq war.

Qatar has much to offer to the

West. While the fall in oil prices provokes anxiety among most OPEC finance ministers, Qatar confidently looks forward to further riches in the next decade. The North Field complex in the north-east of the country is believed to contain the largest single source of non-associated gas in the world. There has already been a round of talks with major European gas companies to consider the feasibility of a \$12 billion pipeline linking Qatar to Western Europe.

On the military front, the Emir is to visit the Hatfield plant of British Aerospace tomorrow to sample a number of civil and military aircraft. Officials are right to point out that his visit is mainly ceremonial with the emphasis on pomp and circumstance rather

than a strict commercial deal. But against the background of successful sales of Tornados to Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the Gulf Cooperation Council's desire for a series of nationally owned defensive systems that are compatible with one another, the Emir will be occupied with more than the purely ritual aspects of the occasion.

The ruler of Qatar is a man of sound judgement. If his visit sows the seed for an eventual purchase, it will be based on pragmatic considerations of efficiency and value for money and not on sentiment. If a deal does materialize during the coming months, it will at least be a crumb of comfort to a defence industry which is still absorbing the painful lessons of Parmigian.

contrary to Argentinian expectations and hopes, must surely be a priority. A firm statement from ourselves, had it been made as far back as the 1930s, when schools in Argentina first started teaching that the "Malvinas" were Argentinian territory, might well have saved much trouble later on.

If such a statement were to the effect that a long leaseback situation was the best that Argentina could expect, then the question of sovereignty would have been aired. Argentina would be able to claim

territorial ownership, and the citizens of the Falkland Islands could continue their lives as at present for, say, 99 years.

The way might then be paved not only for normalisation of relations between the two countries, but, one might hope, joint commercial ventures to the benefit of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,
RADNOR,
As from: House of Lords,
November 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Academic boycott of S Africans

From Professor J. Mandelstam and others

Sir, The International Congress on Archaeology, due to be held in Southampton next September, faces disension and perhaps disruption because its organising committee has surrendered to an academic boycott initiated by the local branch of the Association of University Teachers (AUT), the Students' Union of Southampton and the Southampton City Council. These have all objected to the presence at the congress of any archaeologists from South Africa.

They seem to have failed totally to realise that a congress of scholars or scientists differ in kind from, say, the Olympic Games. At the former, individuals attend as individuals and make their contribution to the furtherance of knowledge in their subject; there are no "winners", no flying of flags, no playing of national anthems. It is a glaring error to treat individual scholars as national representatives.

On this occasion, the error is compounded by the fact that at least one of the "dis-invited" participants, like many other South African academics, has been a consistent and outspoken critic of racism and apartheid. It takes a great deal of moral and physical courage to protest against the system in Cape Town or Johannesburg. It takes none in Southampton. It is a poor reward for those academics in South Africa who take a stand and who risk their professional futures and their freedom to be rejected by their colleagues in this country.

If we were to ban from attendance anyone coming from a country in which the Government cannot be changed by a free vote and in which its citizens are liable to arbitrary arrest because of race, nationality, religion or political belief, we would end up with a huge list of countries from all parts of the world.

Committees of learned societies and the AUT should make it clear that it is not their function to monitor governments and to enumerate those whose subjects may attend a meeting. They must also assert positively that they will not accept dictation from pressure groups — including those operating in city councils.

If they fail to do this, they will promote by default the erosion of international scholarship and while doing so, they will, incidentally, tear themselves apart in the way that the International Congress of Archaeologists is doing now.

Yours faithfully,
J. MANDELSTAM (Microbiology Unit),
G. A. HARRISON (Department of Biological Anthropology),
SCHUYLER JONES (Pitt-Rivers Museum),
R. J. P. WILLIAMS (Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory),
University of Oxford,
c/o Department of Biochemistry, South Parks Road, Oxford,
November 6.

Delays in treatment

From Dr Patrick J. Bennett

Sir, A headline in early editions of *The Times* of November 9 links delays in treating patients in a significant way to surgeons who fail to fill their contractual obligations, implying that this is a major cause. This will come as a great surprise to many working doctors who have a quite different diagnosis.

As chairman of a district committee of surgeons and anaesthetists it has been my responsibility, sadly, to explain and help to impose reductions in the workload of surgeons in my district in the least damaging way possible; this includes reductions in staff, beds and operating lists. To find a lazy surgeon would be a positive relief.

I am also well aware of regular unsuccessful last-minute attempts of junior staff to find beds for booked patients, or of GPs refusing referrals for lack of beds, and increasingly disheartened doctors fielding more complaints from patients whose treatment is disrupted for reasons beyond the control of their doctors.

One must ask, if there is truth in these reports, where it is happening. My experience, not unique in central London, suggests that a worsening situation is almost entirely due to a shortage of adequate funding.

The ingenious and sustained efforts of the surgeons with whom I work to maintain their workload has made my task, I am glad to say, extremely uncomfortable. I hope that in some ways this observation may be a comfort to your readers.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK J. BENNETT,
38 Dartmouth Row,
Greenwich, SE10,
November 9.

Gas goes private

From Mrs Susan Liddell

Sir, Before Mr Redwood (feature, November 7) extolled the effects of the privatization of BT on the consumer perhaps he should have read the verdict of the Telecommunications Users' Association which, as you report in the same issue as your article, describes the recent increase in telephone charges as a "gross abuse of monopoly power".

He might also ponder why, if the purpose of privatization is to increase competition, British Gas is to be sold off as a single entity with even the showrooms left in the hands of the proposed giant private monopoly.

Yours etc,
SUSAN LIDDELL,
Dorchester Corner,
Lingfield,
Surrey,
November 7.

Law and order as a party issue

From Sir Eldon Griffiths, MP for Bury St Edmunds (Conservative)

Sir, What a good phrase: as the parties jockey for advantage over the "law and order" issue, your leader-writer (November 8) calls this "playing the copper card".

The copper on the beat, like his colleagues behind the shields, will respond to this political auction with a mixture of incredulity and scorn. Like the public, he will judge the parties' competing claims to be the policeman's friend by two acid tests: 1. When hard choices must be made, e.g. over street violence, which politicians can be relied on to stand foursquare with the police in upholding the law?

2. Which party in office is the more likely to provide the resources policemen need to do their job?

The present Government passes both tests. Ministers have upset the police by failing to consult them on matters that affect the welfare and efficiency of the service; by surrounding them with paperwork and bureaucracy as a result of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act; and by not moving fast enough to prevent a loss of manpower in nearly every one of our overstretched forces in response to the Treasury's cash limits and DOE penalties on local expenditure.

However, that said, the Government's copper card is a copper-bottomed because the Prime Minister kept faith with the police on two issues. She implemented the 1979 Edmund Davies pay award (over which Labour hovered) and ever since has honoured it in full. Meanwhile, in and out of Parliament, Mrs Thatcher has stood firmly behind the police whenever they have come under attack from violent men.

By contrast, the policeman's image of the Labour Party (with which many, perhaps most, urban coppers at one time had much sympathy) is badly flawed by its tendency automatically to take sides against the police and by its poor record on police issues while in office.

Every policeman I know will welcome the evidence that Mr Kinnock is trying to distance himself from the anti-police brigade in his party. But it is deeds not words that count, and Labour will need to work

hard to erase the service's memories of 8,000 of its best men quitting in disgust because Labour in government denied them decent pay and support.

The police, however, have more than anyone to gain from Labour's returning to the "law and order" consensus which the party of Atlee, Gaitskell and Callaghan held firm. Mr Kinnock would therefore be serving the best interests of his party, as well as the nation, if he would now take these further steps to repair his fences with the police.

First, let him withdraw Labour's three-line whips against the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Without this, in present circumstances, the police cannot hope to protect any British government, or its visitors (e.g. Mr Gandhi) from terrorist attacks.

Second, repudiate the London Labour Party's commitment to disband the special patrol group (without which the Met cannot cope with violent mobs) and disband the Special Branch (whose undercover work Mr Kinnock knows is indispensable).

Third, abandon Labour's policy of placing the police under local political control. What this could mean in practice the police have seen at close hand in the attempts of the South Yorkshire Labour Party to take away their crowd-control horses and of Manchester Labour Party's demand that the local chief constable give up his force's baton rounds.

If Labour will do these things — and at the same time call off the vendettas its local chiefs pursue against the police — the Government should respond, as the Home Secretary has already suggested he will do, by resisting the temptation to make law and order the battleground of the next election. There is nothing the police need more than a truce between the parties on this issue.

To have any chance of stemming, much less reversing, the rising tide of crime and violence in the streets, we need to reconstruct a national consensus on policing.

That is the "copper card" all parties ought now to be playing.

Yours sincerely,
ELDON GRIFFITHS,
House of Commons,
November 11.

Museum charges

From Professor K. W. Cattermole

Sir, As the controversy continues over museum charges and the like, I experience mixed feelings.

On the one hand, as a middle-aged man with an adequate income, I can afford to pay a reasonable charge and my use of museums and other cultural facilities is unlikely to be affected either way.

On the other hand, I recall that when my interest in the arts and sciences was first aroused, I was the child of a poor family in the 1930s. My formal education came from a very good local grammar school. My informal education owed a great deal to visits to London museums, first with my father and later alone; to my use of the then magnificent public library in my home town; to the BBC under Lord Reith; and to the cheapest places at Promenade concerts.

Among my most vivid memories of this era, along with many of a more personal nature, are such

cultural experiences as first seeing vertebrate homology in the Natural History Museum, and first hearing *Tannhäuser*.

I have no doubt about the value or both my formal and my informal education: subjectively, they have enriched my life, and objectively I believe that they have enhanced the practical value of my career in industry and university which has always depended on mental vigour and flexibility.

So, as I try to form a view on the current issues, my own present state is overlaid with recollections of that boy growing up during the previous depression. My general conclusion is that I am quite content if some part of the large sum I pay in taxes goes to the support of education, arts, science, museums, libraries and broadcasting.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH W. CATTERMOLLE,
Fairacre,
Gandiah Road,
East Bergholt,
Colchester, Essex.

Lessons in enterprise

From Mr John Palmer

Sir, Mr Cyril Taylor (October 26) makes the quite unsupported charge that the Greater London Enterprise Board has "wasted" the £60 million provided for it in revenues over the past two years by the GLC.

This is nonsense. The GLEB has accounted for every penny received from the GLC. Total investment "losses" come to less than £4 million — some 6.7 per cent of total funds received, and more than cancelled out by the £4 million increase in the value of our property portfolio. Even as a proportion of the £18 million invested in enterprises alone this represents a failure rate which compares favourably with private sector risk-taking venture capital agencies.

Of course, the great majority of GLEB investments are still trading and providing or creating nearly 3,000 jobs apart from the 4,000 job-spaces being created by our property programme, and the

associated 3,500 job-years being created in the construction industry. But Mr Taylor fails to comprehend that even the "failures" have saved the public money. Each year of employment created by GLEB was provided by a public investment of only 60 per cent of the £6,000 public cost of keeping a worker unemployed for a year.

In this way the enterprise board has already saved the public purse some £20 million through its enterprise investments alone and would do so regardless of the proportion of the investment ultimately written off.

The GLEB is creating jobs, in both the manufacturing and service sectors, for less than the cost of keeping someone unemployed. The true "waste", not mentioned by Mr Taylor, is the £21 billion a year cost of current unemployment levels.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PALMER,
Director of Information,
Greater London Enterprise Board,
63-67 Newington Causeway, SE1,
November 1.

Sunday trading

From Mr Nigel Whittaker

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Rippon (November 8), proposes an ingenious scheme to ward off a purely imagined consequence of repealing the Shops Act.

Allowing those shops to open on Sundays which wish to respond to consumer demand will not affect the quality of life which we prize. The future is clearly visible over the border in Scotland where Sundays are deregulated and the quality of life unaffected: church-going is very much higher and 98 per cent of the population, according to a recent MORI poll, said Sunday trading had no adverse effects.

If shops were free to open, how

many would? A recent survey by Dr Terry Burke of the Polytechnic of Central London showed that according to a broad spread of major retailers, some 15 per cent of high streets would open — a result comparable to the existing situation in Scotland.

Finally, why should shops be subject to restriction? Many enterprises already work on Sunday for our need or pleasure. How many sabbatarians avert their eyes from Monday's edition of *The Times* out of deference to the Sunday labours of you, Sir, and your colleagues?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL WHITTAKER,
242 Marylebone Road, NW1,
November 11.

Black economy

From Dr J. C. Bristow

Sir, Your articles on the "black economy" (Spectrum, October 28, 29) castigate "working and drawing".

If you talk with honest people who are in receipt of social security benefits you find that, although the system is supposed to act as a "top-up", it cannot cope with the person who says, "Over this period I earned £x, pray reduce my benefit accordingly".

"Don't tell me", says the hard-pressed social security official.

In reality you are either "off", or "on" the social security. Unless you have a steady source of income, to be "off" courts the risk of destitution. If you are "on", either you break the law with the encouragement of authority, or you do nothing.

It doesn't make sense to me. Yours etc,
J. C. BRISTOW,
3 Sandwich Street, WC1,
October 30.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 13 1817

The present-day 'profile' is foreshadowed in this article on Beethoven (1770-1827).

BEETHOVEN. — This great composer, whose original and finished productions are so much admired and sought for by musicians, resides at present in Vienna, the city where HAYDN passed the greater part of his life, and where MOZART, under the patronage of the Emperor JOSEPH II, composed some of his best works. Vienna, therefore, has had the honour of receiving within its walls three men of genius. His mind was a strong, excited, man who had refined and exalted their art in the highest degree, and who will mark out to future times a true Augustan age of music. BEETHOVEN is about 50 years of age, and enjoys excellent health. He is unfortunately afflicted with deafness, but not to so great a degree as former accounts had led us to suppose: he is able to converse readily with the assistance of an ear-trumpet; and an ingenious artist is contriving an apparatus of the same nature to be fixed to his piano-forte, which will facilitate his musical studies by enabling him to hear more distinctly the sound of his instrument. He has never been married, is of retired habits of life, and is said to be somewhat uncouth in his manners; he is passionately devoted to his art, and is revered by all who know him as a true man of genius. His mind has a strong tincture of independence; though far from rich, he cannot be induced to compose on any other suggestions than those of his own mind. An English gentleman, a great amateur, lately at Vienna, was anxious to obtain some compositions from so great a master, and acquainted with him, but he believed that it has not before been observed that his early pieces are scarcely less finished than his later ones: by a happiness which is quite uncommon he seems to have appeared at once in full perfection.

University blacklist

From Professor Alan Williams

Sir, The fundamental weakness with the Economic and Social Research Council "blacklist" concerning research studentships (report, November 2) is that it flows from a mistaken view about the significance of delayed thesis submission.

When in November, 1979, as chairman of our graduate committee, I reviewed the current status of 11 thesis students (British and overseas) who had been registered four years earlier, it transpired that none of them had completed a DPhil, although one had submitted. With that performance we would clearly have been on the blacklist.

Setting aside the one who had withdrawn (to become a chartered accountant), of the nine non-submitters, four were in academic teaching posts and the other five in full-time research jobs in universities, banks or local government, where the skills they had acquired were being put to good use. Had we "failed"?

Surely not. A graduate student, by the end of two years of thesis work has usually demonstrated his ability to master complex material in a rigorous way, so as soon as a suitable job comes up he will go for it. But that might not be the natural time to pull the thesis material together and write it up.

Surely the sensible way forward is to try to work out with those involved in research training some way of making an assessment which does not distort the training process itself.

As for the proposal that all departments within a university will be blacklisted if the overall level of performance of the group falls below the selected norm, this seems alarmingly close to the terrorist tactic of taking hostages! Could someone explain to me the morality of this proposal? Should not this whole approach be urgently reappraised before too much damage (intellectual and moral) is done?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN WILLIAMS,
University of York,
Department of Economics and Related Studies, York,
November 8.

Airs in the underworld

From Mr Richard Wiggs

Sir, Is Mr Kirkpatrick (November 4) with his moles and radio mistaking correlation for causality? This autumn the mole activity under the laws here has been on an unprecedented scale, with often more than 20 large heaps of earth erupting during the night, and sometimes with the work continuing during the day.

We have applied no "mole deterrents" (inclining to the view that moles should be accorded some rights) but, three weeks ago, to the relief of my daughter and grandson, who have shovelled and raked up about half a ton of earth, the activity ceased.

In previous years the experience, though on a smaller scale, has been similar: when the clearing of the tunnels is completed, or the animals feel they have done enough, they stop.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD WIGGS,
Fairfield House,
Biggleswade, Bedfordshire,
November 4.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The markets had an exceptionally quiet day yesterday, with most units trading within narrow ranges.

The pound, however, slipped against other important currencies.

Dealers said the pound's falls were again attributable to oil price worries and the tin crisis.

The dollar stayed over-

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

215	248	Throp Secured Cap	315
187	137	Trans Oceanic	151
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7	3.40	252	71	Traveler Inc	77	252	4.75	1.1
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11	2.27	252	75	Travelers Life	77	252	4.75	1.1
12	2.27	252	76	Travelers Nat	77	252	4.75	1.1
13	2.27	252	77	Travelers Sec	77	252	4.75	1.1
14	2.27	252	78	Travelers Svc	77	252	4.75	1.1
15	2.27	252	79	Travelers Tr	77	252	4.75	1.1
16	2.27	252	80	Travelers Un	77	252	4.75	1.1
17	2.27	252	81	Travelers W	77	252	4.75	1.1
18	2.27	252	82	Travelers Y	77	252	4.75	1.1
19	2.27	252	83	Travelers Z	77	252	4.75	1.1
20	2.27	252	84	Travelers AA	77	252	4.75	1.1
21	2.27	252	85	Travelers AB	77	252	4.75	1.1
22	2.27	252	86	Travelers AC	77	252	4.75	1.1
23	2.27	252	87	Travelers AD	77	252	4.75	1.1
24	2.27	252	88	Travelers AE	77	252	4.75	1.1
25	2.27	252	89	Travelers AF	77	252	4.75	1.1
26	2.27	252	90	Travelers AG	77	252	4.75	1.1
27	2.27	252	91	Travelers AH	77	252	4.75	1.1
28	2.27	252	92	Travelers AI	77	252	4.75	1.1
29	2.27	252	93	Travelers AJ	77	252	4.75	1.1
30	2.27	252	94	Travelers AK	77	252	4.75	1.1
31	2.27	252	95	Travelers AL	77	252	4.75	1.1
32	2.27	252	96	Travelers AM	77	252	4.75	1.1
33	2.27	252	97	Travelers AN	77	252	4.75	1.1
34	2.27	252	98	Travelers AO	77	252	4.75	1.1
35	2.27	252	99	Travelers AP	77	252	4.75	1.1
36	2.27	252	100	Travelers AQ	77	252	4.75	1.1
37	2.27	252	101	Travelers AR	77	252	4.75	1.1
38	2.27	252	102	Travelers AS	77	252	4.75	1.1
39	2.27	252	103	Travelers AT	77	252	4.75	1.1
40	2.27	252	104	Travelers AU	77	252	4.75	1.1
41	2.27	252	105	Travelers AV	77	252	4.75	1.1
42	2.27	252	106	Travelers AW	77	252	4.75	1.1
43	2.27	252	107	Travelers AX	77	252	4.75	1.1
44	2.27	252	108	Travelers AY	77	252	4.75	1.1
45	2.27	252	109	Travelers AZ	77	252	4.75	1.1
46	2.27	252	110	Travelers BA	77	252	4.75	1.1
47	2.27	252	111	Travelers BB	77	252	4.75	1.1
48	2.27	252	112	Travelers BC	77	252	4.75	1.1
49	2.27	252	113	Travelers BD	77	252	4.75	1.1
50	2.27	252	114	Travelers BE	77	252	4.75	1.1
51	2.27	252	115	Travelers BF	77	252	4.75	1.1
52	2.27	252	116	Travelers BG	77	252	4.75	1.1
53	2.27	252	117	Travelers BH	77	252	4.75	1.1
54	2.27	252	118	Travelers BI	77	252	4.75	1.1
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Due to a computer failure, the unit trust prices refer to Monday's trading.

TEMPUS

America holds key to Unilever's fortunes

The Unilever board will have jealously observed the ease with which the Prince and Princess of Wales took America by storm and appeared to have almost the entire nation eating out of their hands. Unilever has been trying to do this for years and its failure to accomplish it is at the root of the company's present frustration.

Yesterday's third quarter figures spelt out the problem. European operating profits increased by 21 per cent, overseas operating profits rose by 10 per cent and North American operating profits fell by 22 per cent. The net effect was that group pretax profits for the quarter increased by £20 million to £265 million.

However, Unilever refuses to be too dispirited. The group is still prepared to fight the expensive marketing war in the US, tooth and nail. It is remaining coy about what it is spending, but the figures, it is sure, are massive.

It must be hoped that Unilever's commitment to the American marketing war will also be reflected in its acquisition policy there. Having lost in the battle for Richardson-Vicks, Unilever must not be deterred from pursuing other companies which will help it establish a sounder base in this highly important market.

While the heavy marketing costs are incurred the US - and group - profits will be depressed. However, Unilever's tactics and devotion appear to be winning it some friends in the US investing community. There has been heavy US buying of NV rather than PLC, which has helped reverse the traditional share price relationship, which suggests that the shares, up 25p at £11.95, deserve support.

Yarrow

Yarrow's greatest asset, as far as the stock market is concerned, is one it does not own. The only explanation for the 60 per cent increase in the share price in the last year is the prospect that the company might win its compensation

claim in the European courts over the price when its shipyard was nationalized in 1977. If Yarrow and the other claimants are successful the company could benefit to the tune of perhaps £30 million. The share price, unchanged yesterday at 49.5p, says that Yarrow will win. This confidence may be misplaced.

There is a suggestion that the Human Rights Court will delay its verdict until 1986. It had been expected around Christmas. The theory is that the decision will go against Yarrow and the other claimants.

That scenario does not do justice to Yarrow's case but, while there is still such uncertainty over the outcome, investors would be better advised to concentrate on the company's underlying trading performance.

Yesterday's preliminary figures had the hallmark of a fairly dull year. Pretax profits were down marginally, from £1.6 million to £1.5 million. However, they mask the two starkly contrasting performance areas from Yarrow's two main divisions. YARD, the marine engineering and consultancy operation, almost doubled its profits to £1.2 million. Control Systems, the ticketing division, fell into a loss of £348,000 - from a profit of £965,000.

There is better news on the horizon in that, while YARD is maintaining its performance, Control Systems is fighting back and, with a big stock write-down of £389,000 out of the way, it should return to profit this year.

Yarrow's cash balances of around £8.5 million remain virtually unchanged but, unless they are to be dramatically increased by a merger from Europe, then the share price cannot be justified, even allowing for a modest improvement in trading.

Whether these reasonable looking prospective results will stimulate a recovery in the share remains to be seen. Yet De La Rue can take some positive steps in the meantime towards linking its real identities more satisfactorily. Part of the problems yesterday were caused by the unquantified impact of currency swings on a group with 90 per cent sales exposure to overseas markets. Adjusted for currency swings, pretax profits were nearly £4 million ahead.

The group should move swiftly towards establishing some kind of Exchange Equalization Account, enabling it to produce currency-adjusted figures. That way, it might be able to pacify the London bazaar as well as cashless overseas.

De La Rue

De La Rue supplies banknotes to about 50 countries, including several in South America, whose monetary growth trends, narrow measure, are even more

unstable than the British experience. By dint of long custom, however, De La Rue has built up a quality business, whose hallmark is a high degree of confidentiality.

But as well as manufacturing money, De La Rue is quoted, implying that it, too, has a credit rating to protect and enhance. The supply and demand side of the group's operations require separate projections, which occasionally become juxtaposed.

Yesterday provided a classic case of this. Over-zealous analysts projected £57 million for the year as a whole, despite warning notes by the board at the last annual meeting. The shock of witnessing a £1.3 million shortfall at the halfway stage to £16.4 million decisively torpedoed those hopes, provoking in the process a Latin American style reaction in the share price. It immediately dipped 50p before recovering to 78.5p, down 20p on the day.

The group, however, was at great pains yesterday to spell out that prospects for the year were bright, largely because the trading bias was heavily skewed towards the second half. Last year's record figures of £46.4 million ought to be exceeded by £4 million, leaving the group selling on a cheap target multiple of 9.

There were strong suggestions yesterday that despite the Commission's comments the takeover ferment among the regional breweries will continue to be inspired by the Elders offer for the Allied-Lyons group already before shareholders and Argill group is expected next month to bid for the Distillers Co.

If the Scottish does roll out a new Matthew Brown bid it may encounter further resistance from the Whitbread Investment Co, regarded as a protector of regional breweries, which has built up a shareholding in Matthew Brown.

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Traded option highlights

Total volume on the traded options market numbered 12,454 contracts, with Contain heading the lists at 1,510 contracts traded. Beecham, where trading news and boardroom changes have upset the ordinary share price, saw volume of 1,445 contracts. BT notched up 1,384 contracts, and Imperial and RTZ options were also in demand. There were few significant price changes on the lists.

Pilkington in \$60m US deal

Pilkington Brothers, the glass manufacturer, announced yesterday the purchase of Syntex Ophthalmics Inc, a US contact lens company for \$60 million (£42 million).

The purchase of Syntex, which is subject to the approval of the Office of Fair Trading and the Federal Trade Commission, will be financed from the proceeds of Pilkington's £104 million rights issue last year.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Brewers flat after bid hopes fade

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Regional brewery shares were as flat as a long-forgotten pint yesterday as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission appeared to declare that any attempt by a national brewing group to take over a smaller brewery would be blocked.

The commission's comments came in its report clearing the way for Scottish and Newcastle Breweries to resume bid hostilities with Matthew Brown, the Blackburn brewery.

Shares of regional groups which had recorded heady progress on takeover dreams plunged. Vaux Breweries, the Sunderland group, lost 36p to 370p; Wetherhampton and Dudley Breweries fell 35p to 371p and Greene, King & Sons retreated 19p to 225p. Matthew Brown was 2p lower at 520p.

However, whether the Commission's views will have any lasting impact remains to be seen.

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If the Scottish does roll out a new Matthew Brown bid it may encounter further resistance from the Whitbread Investment Co, regarded as a protector of regional breweries, which has built up a shareholding in Matthew Brown.

There was also speculation yesterday that the Imperial Group, which is anxious to mount a big takeover bid, could attempt to counter any Scottish offer for Matthew Brown. Its Courage brewing offshoot is weak in the north-west and, after Scottish, has the weakest national retail representation.

Imperial is also fancied to be looking at United Biscuits as a possible takeover target. UB has long looked vulnerable to a bid and Imperial would like its US earnings as well as its foods interests in Britain.

One leading broker was recommending UB shares to clients on the basis of takeover potential and the price rose 8p to 207p. Market traders talked of a formal approach from Imperial next week.

But UB could also be a target for acquisitive US companies. Recent bids in North America have produced some high take-over prices, and British shares look cheap by comparison. Although American buyers tend to prefer mergers close to home, UB's high profile in the US could again prove enticing.

British Home Stores came in for some keen buying on expectations that the long mooted takeover bid was about to materialize. The shares rose 9p to 320p with evidence of one large buyer attempting to build up a stake.

In the takeover fever which has swept through the stores sector this year BHS has come in for numerous bouts of speculation. Last night the rumoured bidder was the J. Sainsbury supermarket chain.

After Monday's dismal start to the account prices perked up yesterday. An early flurry - on the back of Wall Street's surge to a new peak on Monday - ran out of steam, although by late afternoon the Dow Jones average was again setting records.

An early 9.2 points gain by the FT 30 share index was cut to a 4.3 points advance to 1,074.6 points at the close. FT-

SE share index finished with a 6.1 points improvement to 1,381.6 points.

The Chancellor's Autumn Statement had little immediate impact on equities but his comments on inflation, interest rates and public spending gave government stocks a late tonic with some gains stretching to up to 8.74.

Shares in the oil sector traded quietly, with losses and gains of a few pence scattered here and there was more to talk about as Berkeley Exploration & Production formally announced its merger discussions with Petro-berkeley. Berkeley shares slipped 5p to 85p in response, while Petro-berkeley - a fully-listed stock - dipped 10p to 130p.

Earnshaw, Haas & Sons, the brewer, showed 33.1 per cent of Cheshire Wholefoods yesterday at 110p a share. The company, which supplies natural menzies to leading food retailers, comes to the USM on a p/e of 14.7, forecasting profits of not less than £550,000 on sales of £6.5 million for the year to next March. Dealings in CW begin on November 20, and the placing price values the company at £5.6 million.

Newman Industries rose 3p to 32p as Suter, led by Mr David Abell, revealed an increased holding in the engineering group. Suter has raised its stake from 6.3 per cent to 7.41 per cent.

Automotive Products, the car components group, rose another 4p to 97p on takeover talk.

Another bid possible was Hillards, the supermarket chain. Shares in the company, which has long been seen as a target for a bid, rose 15p to 220p.

DRG, the paper and packaging group, slipped 7p to 212p as market stories of a bid faded. Nevertheless, the shares have also done well on enhanced City perception of the group's prospects, and remain a favour-

ite investment for certain institutional investors.

A reported improvement in the book-bill ratio in the American semi-conductor industry - indicating a pick up in demand - helped a number of electricals including Farnell Electronics, Diploma and Unitech. Lex Service Group was another beneficiary of the book-bill ratio.

Williams Holdings, the fast growing specialists engineering group, jumped 22p to 415p on its acquisition of The Rawplugh Group from Burnham Oil. Williams has conditionally placed with institutional investors through Schroder, the merchant bank, and de Zoete & Bevan, the broker, 3.1 million shares to raise the £11.5 million needed for the deal.

International City Holdings, the Charles Fulton money broking group, made a firm debut, closing at 199p (after 202p). The shares were offered at 190p. Magnetic Materials Holdings had a less happy start - trading down to 108p against 114p sale price. Closing level was 110p.

Deritend, the forgings and castings group, spurred 22p to £168p. Carole Engineering has increased its shareholding to 6.2 per cent.

Electricals were mixed. International Signal & Control was an active market on worries that figures due in the next account will be accompanied by a rights issue. The shares closed unchanged at 328p.

Distillers shares rose another 11p to 466p as the City continues its build-up towards next month's expected terms for the drinks leader from Argill Group. The City believes a first bid of around 500p a share is likely, though recent information from the broker Wood Mackenzie about dealings in Distillers shares suggests that figure is too high.

Argill has picked up a few more shares - less than 1 million - in recent weeks, around the 400p to 425p level.

If its intention was to make an offer anywhere near 500p, it would make more sense for Argill to buy much more than it has. Argill now holds around 2 per cent of Distillers, and must pitch its offer no lower than the highest price it has paid for shares so far.

US buyers have been more active, picking up between 15 million and 20 million Distillers shares. Most of the purchases appear to be straight-forward investments, although for those in the City who have heard tell of a rival to the Argill bid from the US this attention from New York is significant.

Glaxo Holdings got a boost from bad news for one of its

Bid speculation stays with Argill Trust, the property to financial services group. Although the shares have slipped from their peak of 43p - down 1/2p at 34 1/2p yesterday - market men still hear that First National Finance Corporation has serious takeover intentions. The City also hopes to hear more about self-offs from Argill.

competitors. Yamanouchi of Japan is believed to have postponed the European launch of its anti-ulcer drug Gaster, a rival to Glaxo's high-selling Zantec. The Glaxo share price rose 43p to 1528p.

Amersham International, which produces radio-active materials for medical uses, fell a further 13p to 290p in response to this week's profits news. Interim results came out 3 per cent down on the comparable period of 1984.

Meanwhile, Beecham Group rallied 3p to 286p as the shares tried to shrug off its poor news. On Monday, Sir Ronald Halstead, the chairman, resigned after a loss of confidence in his leadership by members of the drugs and household products group board.

Staffordshire Potteries (Holdings) plc Annual Results

	Year to 30.6.85	Year to 30.6.84
Turnover	30,685,000	29,000,000
Operating Profit	2,183,000	2,067,000
Interest payable	1,559,000	1,600,000
Profit before taxation	(339,000)	(490,000)
Earnings per ordinary share:		
Basic	9.8p	14.8p
Fully diluted	7.3p	11.0p
Dividends per ordinary share	3.0p	2.0p

At the Annual General Meeting of the Company held in Stoke-on-Trent on 12th November the Chairman, Mr. Bill Bowers said:

- UK retail activity is encouraging but current rates of foreign exchange are a restraint on the growth of overseas sales.
- Prevailing rates of interest underline the necessity to achieve further reductions in borrowings.
- Your Company's policy of improving the product range continues. This is reflected in a healthy order book and full utilisation of production facilities, including the new factory extension at Meir Park.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from The Secretary, Meir Park, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 7AA.

Has Bibby changed in ten years?



There's been no reason to turn over a new leaf as far as Bibby's profits are concerned. Record figures every year for the last ten - and this year is no exception. Even in the 9 months since our last results (we changed our year end from December to September this year), we've produced a profit before tax of £21,929,000 compared with £12,383,000 in the equivalent period last year, and £31,029,000 in the 12 months to 28 September 1985.

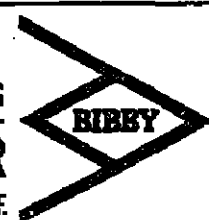
Not to mention a 55% jump in earnings per share to 12.49p compared with the equivalent 9 months of last year.

Which all goes to prove that the changes we have made - most recently in adding the areas of distribution and packaging to those of agriculture and industry - have paid off.

Find out the full story by sending for our Annual Report which will be published shortly.

Profit before tax £m.	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
	14.2	55.2	58.4	59.7	100.8	112.2	151.1	118.4	221.4	231.0

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J. Bibby and Sons Plc, 16 Stratford Place, London W1N 9AF.



GOLF

Faldo gets back into the swing of things

From Mitchell Platts
Kapalua, Maui, Hawaii

Nick Faldo moves into the 1986 season with a bang, determined to turn round his fortunes in a year in which he has struggled through his complicated swing change and has been conspicuously absent from the leader boards.

Twelve months ago Faldo could consider himself to be the number one British golfer, but it was in this tournament last year that Sandy Lyle initiated an astonishing sequence of success which was highlighted last July by his victory in the Open championship at Royal St George's.

Lyle captured the Kapalua International, starting on the Bay course here today, determined to turn round his fortunes in a year in which he has struggled through his complicated swing change and has been conspicuously absent from the leader boards.

The problem is that Faldo remains slightly suspicious that his new swing is not entirely automatic, so that on occasion there is still the possibility of a wayward shot spoiling his card.

"David Leadbetter, the coach who has helped me through the swing change, actually frightened me by explaining that it might take as long as 18 months before I can hit the ball without actually thinking about the swing I am making," Faldo says. "But the best thing was that he was honest with me right from the start and that I realized how much work was involved."



Faldo: frightened

"Basically the change means that I am now swinging on the same plane throughout the swing, whereas in the past I made a change at the top of the back swing which contributed to a weakness that could lead to a few bad shots around. It would, obviously, be a big boost for me to win here, or in the Casio World Open, but whatever happens I am now looking forward to next year when I will play more in Europe."

Faldo, however, has been encouraged by his recent performances in the Walt Disney World Classic, in which he finished 17th, and the Dunhill Cup, and he is convinced that by next season he will have sufficient confidence in his swing to win on a regular basis.

In fact, he has not avoured success since the Car Club Plan International in May of last year, although he can take some consolation from the knowledge that golfers of the calibre of Tom Watson and Ben Crenshaw have been affected by similar losses of form.

Crenshaw has been a forlorn figure since he won the United States Masters last year. He finished 150th on the US PGA Tour official money list this season with earnings of only \$25,000 (about £18,000). But he recently teamed up with Miller Barber, aged 54, to win a team tournament.

"I feel that I am settling back down again and that as a result I can start thinking about winning golf," Crenshaw says. "I am not doing anything different in terms of my swing, compared to when I won the US Masters. It is simply a question of my confidence returning and now in a better frame of mind to get my act together on the course."

The prize fund of \$350,000 includes a first prize of \$90,000.

PGA talks

The directors of the PGA will discuss the restrictions on European players imposed by the United States PGA "within the next two weeks," according to Ken Schofield, the executive director of the European tour.

HORSE TRIALS

British accept a long trip to Australia

Britain are prepared after all to defend their world three-day event championship in Gawler, South Australia, next year, even though they have failed to persuade the Australian Equestrian Federation to reduce the flight time for horses travelling to around 24 hours.

The original schedule for the trip next May was to take 40 hours, but this was rejected by the British Horse Trials Committee because it was felt likely to impact on the elite careers of horses. The team of eight horses will still face a 32-hour trip via the less expensive Western route, with the Australians committed to paying most of the travelling expenses.

Malcolm Wallace, Director General of the British Federation, said yesterday: "We were very disappointed that the Australian authorities could not agree to our request to travel by the Eastern route via Singapore, which would have reduced the time to about 24 hours."

"Although the revised schedule is not ideal we feel this is a justifiable risk so far as the horses are concerned. If we had not agreed to do, there was a real chance that the championships might have been called off."

The Australian federation are also still insisting on European horses undergoing a six weeks quarantine period, but have agreed that British horses will spend four weeks in Britain and two in Australia. Originally they were stipulating a four weeks spell in Australia.

British riders, some of whom have expressed misgivings about the trip, will still have to work horses in Britain both in and out of quarantine to their championship preparation but their normal domestic spring programme.

Insular to carry royal colours with distinction in new role

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Although our flat racing season has ended, there are still busy days for Ian Balding, the royal trainer. Just back from a visit to Kentucky, he is off next week to Tokyo to put the finishing touches to Gold And Ivory's preparation for this year's Japan Cup. Gold And Ivory, who already has victories to his credit in Germany and Italy besides this country, left for Japan yesterday.

During the close season Balding likes nothing better than to have the occasional runner under National Hunt Rules and he will be at Newbury this afternoon to saddle Insular for the Queen Mother in the first division of the Wood Speen Novices Hurdle. I originally thought that Insular would be Balding's first runner for the Queen Mother, and also Brian Kelly's first ride racing silks, but Balding corrected me and pointed out that they ran Dukedom a couple of times for her during the winter of 1980-81 without success. Dukedom was a decent performer on the flat, but unfortunately he had a problem with his wind and had to undergo a soft palate operation in addition to being hobbled. Mercifully, Insular has no such problems and he looks like doing his job properly for his owner whose enthusiasm still knows no boundaries.

A winner twice on the flat last summer, first at Newbury in May, and again at Ascot at the end of September, Insular was also placed in the Autumn Cup at Newbury. A big rangy gelding, he has the size and scope to do well jumping and he is my nap.

The other division may be won by Deep And Even, whose form on the flat does not compare with that boasted by Insular. Deep And Even, on the other hand, has an abundance of good jumping blood running through his veins and that often counts for a lot.

His stable companion, Brown Trax can win the Arlington Handicap Chase and complete a double for Fred Winter by

beating Glen Fox, who was so disappointing at Chesham after beating Elm Boy at Stratford. Glen Fox's stable look like collecting the cheque for Conditional Jockey's Handicap Hurdle, through Whisky Eyes, a winner twice on the course last season and more recently a decisive scorer at Stratford.

It was during that same meeting at Stratford only seven days ago that misfortune of the cruellest kind befell Gembridge Jupiter, who is now my selection to win the Halloween Novices' Chase. A hot favourite to remain unbeaten over fences, Chris Tietline's seven-year-old eventually ran out because a buckle on his rein broke leaving Adrian Sharpe his jockey, without any steering at all around one of the tightest courses in the country. Over hurdles, Gembridge Jupiter was unquestionably better than French Union and now I take him to confirm that superiority chasing. Prior to that unfortunate accident, he had shown himself to be an adept jumper of fences at Stratford in his first race of the season.

At Kelso, the highlight will be the seasonal debut of Righthand Man, who won four chases off the real winter, including the Welsh National, before finishing second in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Scottish National. Today, the hard core of his opposition comprises Richdee and Why Forget, the horse who finished only a length and a half behind him in the Scottish National on similar terms.

If Right Hand Man is short of work, as his trainer, Monica Dickinson said earlier this week he will surely find his principal rivals hard to beat this afternoon on these terms. Why Forget, is therefore just preferred.

Oh So Sharp, the triple crown winner, has been retired from racing and will be built with Sharief Dancer. Sheikh Mohammed's other star, Pebbles, will stay in training next season with the Eclipse Stake and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes as two of her objectives.

Today's course specialists

NEWBURY
TRAINERS: F. Winter, 54 wins from 206 runners, 28.2%; J. Jenkins, 12 from 57, 21.1%; T. Ford, 10 from 45, 22.2%.
JOCKEYS: S. Sharpe, 5 wins from 21 rides, 23.8%; P. Scudamore, 38 from 191, 19.9%; H. Davies, 23 from 145, 15.8%.

WOLVERHAMPTON
TRAINERS: J. A. Edwards, 10 wins from 65 runners, 15.2%.
JOCKEYS: J. A. Edwards, 10 wins from 65 runners, 15.2%.

NEWBURY

Going: good to firm
1.00 WOOD SPEEN NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: £1,478; 2m 100yds) (13 runners)
101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280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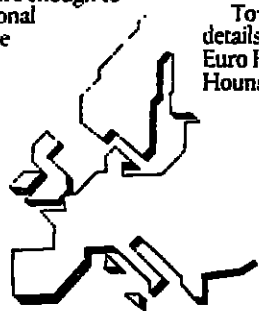
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